Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-92-241 *15 December 1992*

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Justice Ministers Agree To Counter Drug Traffic

PA1212165792 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Report by Marcela Duran]

[Text] Representatives of eight countries have endorsed a proposal by Colombia to carry out an active exchange of information and investigative control of suspect bank accounts in Cartagena, the site of the first Latin American meeting of justice ministers. Countries such as Venezuela and Mexico, where drug trafficking activities have increased, will sign an agreement with Colombia for judicial cooperation.

The agreements will permit the exchange of information between police authorities, compilation of evidence to try drug kingpins expeditiously, and follow up on bank accounts.

[Begin recording, Venezuelan Deputy Justice Minister Jaime Rimer] We will engage in judicial cooperation in matters of information exchange, identification, modus operandi of criminals, penal precedents, and all the legal information that is necessary to fight crime, particularly money-laundering activities. [end recording]

For Brazil, drug trafficking poses a serious threat. The economic crisis in that country could be used by the drug kingpins as a reason for the entry of money, and on many occasions, to use the country as a haven. That is why the Justice Ministry will submit to Congress a draft bill establishing the maximum penalty of 30 years for crimes of drug trafficking, terrorism, and kidnapping.

[Begin recording, Galba Menegale, representative of the Brazilian Legal Studies Institute, in Portuguese] The drug traffickers could attempt to make Brazil their base. The Amazon region is an inhospitable region for policemen to work. That prospect frightens us. Therefore, rather than be caught by surprise, Brazil will have to draft a preventive policy. [end recording]

For Colombia, judicial cooperation in all Latin America is a triumph because, finally, the counternarcotics struggle will cease to be a solitary struggle.

Reject Creation of International Court

PA1212193992 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1649 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 12 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government has expressed doubts about the Colombian Government's proposal to create an international criminal court to prosecute drug traffickers.

"Although judicial procedures among the regional nations should be made uniform and the exchange of evidence should become a reality, Mexico has no plans for international jurisdiction for the time being," Deputy Attorney General Rene Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez, who participated in the Latin American judicial authorities summit that closed in Cartagena on 11 December, said "the region is not prepared for the creation of a court." Mexico would rather have international cooperation, keep a firm hold on local criminals, and prosecute them, Gonzalez added.

In the 2-day meeting, the justice ministers of seven countries agreed to strictly control the transactions of financial centers and conduct an official study on the creation of an international criminal court as part of the fight against drug traffic.

Some of the participating countries are of the opinion, however, that the creation of such a court "would be a serious detriment to sovereignty and jurisdictional independence."

"We must apply our own domestic systems for the administration of justice, seek world cooperation, and solve our regional problems, but without diminishing the sovereignty of each nation," Gonzalez said.

The Mexican, Ecuadoran, and Bolivian delegates also turned down the idea of building international prisons to hold drug traffickers.

"Each country must have an adequate prison system to hold the criminals convicted by their respective courts," Marco Oviedo, Bolivian deputy interior minister, said.

Cuba

Opposition Members Report Arrest of CSD Leaders

PA1512044692 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0025 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Havana, 14 Dec (NOTIMEX)—In the past three days most founders of the Democratic Socialist Current [CSD] of Cuba have been arrested, attacked, and are the victims of repudiation meetings, opposition spokesmen said here on 14 December.

Dozens of people, "including state security members," gathered around the residence of Elizardo Sanchez Santa Cruz, Vladimiro Roca, Rene del Pozo, and Alvaro Prendes to repudiate them for being dissidents, the sources added.

The Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation [CDHRN] confirmed the arrest of its president, Elizardo Sanchez, and the search of his residence in Playa Municipality.

The CDHRN made the Cuban Government responsible for the dissident's safety and search of his residence.

Relatives consulted by NOTIMEX said Sanchez Santa Cruz is in a hospital, and according to the authorities, no arrest warrant has been issued against him.

Elizardo Sanchez Santa Cruz is among the most important human rights activists still active on the island. He is also considered one of the main leaders of the moderate wing of the opposition to the government of President Fidel Castro and is member of the Socialist Current that advocates reaching a national consensus with this government.

The residences of dissidents Vladimiro Roca and Rene del Pozo were surrounded this weekend. They received threats to stop "organizing news conferences," Roca told NOTIMEX.

Last week a group of people gathered across from the residence of Commander Alvaro Prendes, retired, to repudiate him. He was the third highest ranking officer of the Cuban Air Force and joined the opposition on 3 December. Prendes, who is member of the 26 July Movement, a Bay of Pigs hero, and founder of the Cuban Air Force, announced personally his decision to join the moderate opposition to the government. The chief of the Cuban Air Force during the 22 October 1962 missile crisis faced shouts and threats over the weekend by a group of people who gathered across from his residence.

The CSD of Cuba insisted there are only two solutions to the economic and political crisis in Cuba. The first one is "violent and could have unthinkable consequences for the people's safety and country's assets," organization spokesmen said. The second one, they added, is peaceful "and would give the people an opportunity to exercise fully their sovereign will." The dissident organization urged the government of the island to desist from "anti-idemocratic practices against its own people." "We want full respect for our right to speak out, propose discuss, criticize, and agree within the framework of the law," opposition spokesmen added.

Raul Castro Chairs FAR Council Meeting

FL1412145292 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], has verified the fact that with the small resources allocated, it has been possible to prepare millions of Cubans for the defense of the country. Raul Castro, also the second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, chaired the last 1992 work session of the Ministry of the FAR Military Council, which was held on 11 and 12 December.

The need to match tasks with available resources in the economic situation that Cuba is confronting was confirmed during the assessment of the work in 1992. There was praise for the unselfish efforts of millions of Cubans, who, despite the difficulties, tripled the construction of civil defense tunnels and ground preparation projects.

Identity Card Offices Extend Hours for Elections

FL1412172592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] We wish to inform listeners that the identity card offices throughout Cuba will remain open on election days, and that their working hours will be the same as those of the polling stations. People will be able to go there, should they unexpectedly lose their identity card just a few hours before the voting, to obtain a provisional identity card; but this card will be valid only for the purpose of voting.

For this reason, if you realize beforehand that you will be needing an identity card, I recommend you do not wait until that particular day. With two identity-card photos and the appropriate seal, in just two hours you can obtain the permanent document, especially since these offices' working hours are going to be extended as of 15 December because of the elections.

If they turned 16 in 1992, young people who will be voting for the first time this year will be able to vote using their minor's card; that document remains valid, for them, until 31 December. For those who turned 16 before 1992 and still have not obtained an identity card, go to the CIRP [Identity Card and Population Registry] offices with your minor's card and two photographs. If your identity card does not have a picture, take your parents or guardians with you.

'Scientific Hub' Established in Pinar del Rio

FL1512015792 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] A scientific hub has been created in Pinar del Rio; it will work on six priority scientific and technical programs that concern the economy of the province. This is the fourth province—in addition to Havana City Province—where a scientific hub has been created. In the case of Pinar del Rio, this event has considerable importance, since this was one of the most backward regions of Cuba before the triumph of the revolution.

The Pinar del Rio scientific hub is made up of 258 professionals and technicians belonging to 36 scientific institutions, educational centers, or production centers. These centers include the Hermanos Sainz University, the Higher Institute for Teaching, experimental stations for various crops, and the Academy of Sciences.

Doctoral candidate Jose Antonio Diaz Duque was appointed hub coordinator. Fidel Ramos Perera, the party first secretary for the province, and Cuban Academy of Sciences President Rosa Elena Simeon attended the creation ceremony.

Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 1 - 12 Dec

FL0912151692

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 1 December and 12 December.

160 Sugarcane Farms Formed—As of 27 November, 160 sugarcane farms have been formed in Cuba. The report notes that Andres Fernandez, director of the Ministry of the Sugar Industry [Minaz], said the Minaz plans to transform 777 permanent production brigades into 732 farms before the end of January 1993. Rebelde adds that oil workers in Mantanzas have extracted 600,000 tons of oil this year. (Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1000 GMT 1 Dec 92)

Guira de Melena Enterprise Reaches 1 Million Quintals—The Guira de Melena Mixed Crop Enterprise is the third enterprise in Havana Province to reach 1 million quintals of vegetables and tubers, adding that the Alquizar and Guines Enterprises have already reached the 1-million mark. The Antonio Viceras Mixed Enterprise in Puerto Padre, Las Tunas Province, was the first in that province to reach 200,000 quintals of vegetables and tubers this year. (Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Dec 92)

Fuel Saved by Coastal Shipping—Guantanamo can transport 30 percent of its goods by coastal shipping rather than by truck, thereby saving fuel. (Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 1 Dec 92)

1 Million Quintals Harvested by Havana Workers—Workers in Havana have harvested 1 million quintals of plantains, potatoes, tomatoes, boniato, and yucca, 80 percent of which have been harvested by state enterprises. (Radio Reloj in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Dec 92)

New Cargo Ship Conducts First Test Run—The Palmarito, a cargo ship built with Dutch assistance in Guantanamo's Del Oriente Shipyard, has conducted its first sea test run. Delivery to Caribe Navigation Enterprise is scheduled for "next week." Six tugboats built in Santiago de Cuba's El Nispero Shipyard are expected to be delivered "soon" to The Netherlands. The steel-hulled Palmarito is the second cargo vessel built here with the capacity to carry 500 tons on deck through the roll-on roll-off perpendicular docking system. (Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Dec 92)

Plastic Recycling Factory Purchased in Italy—The inauguration of a Villa Clara factory to recycle plastic film into low-density plastics. The factory was purchased in Italy for $1 million and is expected to produce $2 million worth of plastics per year. (Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Dec 92)

600,000 Boxes of Grapefruit Exported—50,000 tons of grapefruit have been harvested on the Isle of Youth, with 600,000 boxes exported. The challenge to obtain quality fruit is a top priority. (Radio Progreso in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Dec 92)

Sancti Spiritus Province Expect 400,000 Quintals of Tubers—The members of the National Association of Small Farmers of Sancti Spiritus Province expect to provide 400,000 quintals of tubers by the end of this year, a quantity "unprecedented in earlier periods." Cuba Vision says the highest figure to date has been 433,000 quintals, sold to the state in 1990, and that the small farmers of Sancti Spiritus are far under par on the vegetable production plans, which have been affected mainly by abnormalities in the weather.

Cuba Vision also reports that services—such as providing pilots, supplying ships with water, making repairs, and salvage activities—provided to foreign vessels docking in Cuban ports by the Cuban enterprise, Navegacion de Nuevitas, in Camaguey Province have brought the national income more than $2 million. (Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 8 Dec 92)

Fuel Injection Pumps Manufactured—Cuba is for the first time producing fuel injection pumps for Taino motors, using 50 percent local components. The newscast reports: "At the new workshop of the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Factory, Cuban engineers and foreign advisers are continuing to develop this technology." Some 200 pumps will have been manufactured in 1992 and 600 will be produced in 1993, half of which will be for motors for KTP cane combines. The injection pump, which Cuba is manufacturing at a cost of $500, costs $1,000 on the international market.

The newscast also reports that an "innovative technology" is allowing the manufacture of bicycle valves at low cost at the Francisco Acanda Workshop of the Guanabacoa Oil Drilling and Extraction Enterprise in Guanabacoa. One valve can be produced every six minutes at a

cost of $0.28, without sophisticated technology, thereby saving the $1.00 cost of importing a lower quality valve. (Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Dec 92)

Havana Province Announces Harvest Results—Havana Province harvest statistics: 100,000 quintals of miscellaneous crops by a banner-winning contingent; 190,000 quintals by the end of November by the Alquizar Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise, with plans to harvest another 70,000 quintals before the end of the year.(Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1000 GMT 9 Dec 92)

Las Tunas Province Production Noted—The 39 Las Tunas Province sugarcane by-products plants built since the Revolution are providing many jobs. The province, with 44 sugarcane by-products plants and seven sugar-growing agro-industrial complexes, hopes to achieve production of 300,000 tons of animal feed, 200,000 hectoliters of alcohols, and 25,000 hectoliters of rum and brandy by the end of the year. Additional products include carbon dioxide, torula yeast, furfural, biofertilizers, and planks made from bagasse.

Rebelde also reports the following: A Granma Province fish farm produced 42 million fry through October; Ciego de Avila state, cooperative, and small farmer enterprises hope to harvest 3 million quintals of vegetables and tubers by year's end. (Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Dec 92)

Sugarcane Grinding Process Begins in Provinces—Sugarcane grinding operations have begun at the Panchito Gomez Toro and Abel Santamaria Agricultural Complexes in Villa Clara Province and the Amancio Rodriguez Sugar Mill in Las Tunas Province, the second in that province to begin grinding operations. (Radio Reloj in Spanish 2030 GMT 10 Dec 92)

Cuban Workers Federation Pledges Workers—The Havana City provincial Cuban Workers Federation is pledged to provide the necessary workers for sugarcane, tobacco, and citrus harvests and general agricultural mobilizations; the 1 May Contingent has begun harvesting sugarcane; Villa Clara Province is planting 20 caballerias in potatoes. (Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Dec 92)

Isle of Youth Harvest Yield Noted—The Isle of Youth citrus harvest has surpassed last year's. The total 87,495 tons of grapefruit includes the early and the current harvests; the province has exported 10,000 tons of fresh grapefruit, most of high export quality. "This has opened the possibility of introducing Cuban grapefruit on the demanding international market." Priority participation by "thousands" of mobilized Isle of Youth residents in hand weeding 5 million plants contributed to production and quality. Another 10,000 fruits will be harvested before year's end.

The same Radio Rebelde newscast reports that (Yusef Lubatti), director of operations of the World Food Agency, said during a news conference that Cuba, despite its special period and difficulties caused by nature, not only receives aid but also gives to other countries, citing as an example the 3,000 tons of sugar it donated this year as a sign of solidarity to people in need throughout the world. (Lubatti) stressed that the UN World Food Agency is proud to give its support to Cuba. He praised the efforts of Las Tunas residents in the program begun on 1 June. UN assistance in developing the cattle industry in Las Tunas totals $24 million, of which 78 percent will be used in the private sector and the rest in the state sector. The funds contributed by the Cuban Government will be used for social projects such as housing, roads, schools, and markets. (Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Dec 92)

Cienfuegos Province Begins Cutting Sugarcane—Cienfuegos Province sugarcane brigades have begun cutting cane and the mills will begin operations next week. In Pinar del Rio Province 26,000 workers—a record number—are engaged in agricultural tasks. They plan to conclude planting a majority of tobacco plants by the end of the year. A Havana rubber factory has fulfilled its production goals for bicycle tires, games, shoes, and tourist and domestic items. (Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Dec 92)

Matanzas Province Produces 100 Tons of Honey—Matanzas Province has fulfilled its goal by producing 100 tons of honey. (Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1000 GMT 12 Dec 92)

Sugarcane Harvest Underway in Ciego de Avila Province—The sugarcane harvest in Ciego de Avila Province is in full swing. (Radio Progreso in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Dec 92)

Low-cost Housing Units Ready in Havana Province—Santiago de Cuba Province reports that 25,000 tons of freshwater fish were caught this year—4,000 tons more than in 1991. Havana Province has 305 low-cost housing units ready for occupancy; they were built in previous years but lacked water, electricity, and landscaping until recently. (Radio Reloj in Spanish 1500 GMT 12 Dec 92)

Microjet Systems Installed in Holguin Province—Construction brigades have installed microjet systems in 11 of 46 caballerias of Holguin Province banana fields; a technology created by Matanzas researchers for measuring and controlling sugar crystallization is in use in plants in Cardenas, Sancti Spiritus, Villa Clara, and Havana; soldering technology is allowing the first bimetal tools to be produced in Holguin, thereby effecting "considerable" savings in steel and resources. (Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Dec 92)

Bahamas

Allegedly Missing Funds Paid to Advertiser

FL1112155992 Bridgetown CANA in English 1444 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Dec 10, CANA—Former Bahamas Finance Minister Paul Adderley has denied

allegations that US8 million dollars from the public treasury had been "stashed away" in a private bank account in Miami under the previous government.

Adderley was responding to remarks Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham made during the 1993 budget debate. According to Ingraham, investigations showed the money was taken from the Ministry of Tourism.

However, Adderley said the eight million dollars to which Ingraham referred was placed in the North Carolina bank account of Silver and McKinny, one of the ministry's advertising firms, to cover advertising costs.

He said it became necessary to advance money after another agency gave up the Bahamas' account because of late payments.

"Don't mislead people in a criminal fashion. It's criminal to mislead people in his fashion," Adderley told the House of Assembly.

Bermuda

Prime Minister Defends War Role of U.S. Base

FL1212155492 Bridgetown CANA in English 1448 GMT 12 Dec 92

[By Marcus Day]

[Excerpt] Hamilton, Bermuda, CANA, Dec 12 - An American TV programme has portrayed the United States Naval Air Station in Bermuda as a playground for fun-seeking military VIPs.

The base was painted by the ABC Network's Primetime Live as a "Club Med"—with military brass soaking up the sun and golfing at the taxpayer's expense. And it seems likely to trigger calls for the St. David's station to be closed.

American Congresswoman Pam Schroeder delivered a chilling warning—before the programme, which was also shown in Bermuda, was aired Thursday [10 December]. She threatened to put pressure on Defence Secretary Dick Cheney to sound the death knell for the base. "If the Navy itself acknowledges that NAS Bermuda serves no military purpose, the secretary should put it on the base closure list. "The U.S. has far too many overseas military bases, we can't afford to keep unneeded ones open."

Bermuda's Premier Sir John Swan declined to comment on the programme's catalogue of allegations. It was up to the U.S. Government - which owned the base - to respond to the charges, he said.

But Sir John strongly defended the post-cold war role of the base. It provided the first emergency landing place for the space shuttle, he said.

Sir John also admitted the enormous impact the Naval Air Station had on Bermuda's balance of payments - in 1987 a report stated the US and Canadian bases funnelled US30 million dollars into the island. [passage omitted]

Dominican Republic

Study Projects 875,000 Unemployed by Year 2000

FL1412182192 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] According to a study conducted by the Dominican Family Welfare Association [Asociacion Dominicana Pro Bienestar de la Familia] [Pro-Familia] and the National Planning Commission [Conaplan], by the year 2000 there will be over 875,000 additional unemployed people in the Dominican Republic.

Presently, the prevailing level of unemployment in the Dominican Republic remains above 24 percent with an annual growth of 3.33 percent. Between this decade and the year 2000, there will be 223,367 unmet demands for new jobs. These figures, added to the more than 650,000 currently unemployed, will total 874,765 people. Of this total, over 56 percent will be located in the subregion of Valdesia, with the majority [of the remainder] in Santo Domingo City. The study was conducted by Pro-Familia and Conaplan on the basis of estimates of the economically active population and the demand for workers by regions and subregions. The study points out that the number of individuals aged 10 or older constituting the so-called economically active population maintains relatively high growth levels at a rate of almost 3 percent per year.

Grenada

Agriculture Minister Announces 1993 Goals

FL1212173192 Bridgetown CANA in English 1721 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Dec 12, CANA—The Grenada Government is aiming to increase agricultural output next year in a bid to keep the sector afloat, says Agriculture Minister George Brizan.

Brizan listed nine areas of government concentration in the coming year, including establishment of a commercial fisheries company between government and fishermen, rehabilitation of farm and feeder roads, advancing agricultural diversification, curbing praedial larceny and generally promoting and supporting agro-industry.

The Ministry of Agriculture has also earmarked the rehabilitation of the banana industry along with 1,000 acres of cocoa land, the stabilisation of income and earnings of the Grenada Co-operative Nutmeg Association (GCNA) and assistance with fertiliser and a farmers credit scheme for urgent attention.

In a national radio and television address recently Brizan said government was looking at diversifying its agriculture base in a bid to stabilise traditional areas to ensure a

constant source of raw material for agro-industries, expanding non-traditional areas and developing agro-industries.

Brizan said funding had been secured from the British Development Division for the start of government's tree crop project, which would assist the establishment of orchards in specified fruit.

He pledged greater training for young farmers in a thrust to improved products.

Government has formed Belvedere Development Company (BDC) to manage a 500-acre estate of bananas.

"The government has set itself the target of producing 15,000 tonnes of quality bananas by December of 1993 and to have weekly shipments of fruit resume," said Brizan. Currently ships of the British company Geest, which markets Windward Islands fruit, come to Grenada once every two weeks.

The project is funded by government through a loan from Geest. Bananas earned Grenada just over nine million dollars (one EC dollar - 37 cents US) in 1991.

The Grenada Banana Co-operative Society (GBCS) is also developing its plantation as a model for local farmers.

The cocoa industry has received over two million dollars for the strengthening of the industry which was brought back from the brink of collapse by a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded rehabilitation project.

Brizan noted the collapse of the nutmeg industry due to low international prices and the 1989 termination of an Indonesia-Grenada pact. He also charged that advice to the chairman of the Grenada Co-operative Nutmeg Association (GCNA) Norris James five years ago to save some of the 15 million dollars paid out that year in an annual bonus, fell on deaf ears.

This is the second year running that nutmeg farmers will not be receiving a bonus. A nine million dollar loss was recorded this year.

The GCNA has seen a constant slump in sales since 1988 when sales peaked at 42 million but fell to nine million in 1992.

"This is the harsh reality and anyone who wants to paint it differently is fooling and misleading others. What is needed is solutions to this problem not confusion and hysteria," Brizan said.

He added government had given the GCNA more than two million dollars in direct and indirect financing this year. "Government has identified an international marketing and finance firm, JHB International of Belgium, to work with the association to develop a new marketing system to rescue the association from collapse," he said.

He took a swipe at unidentified critics saying they were misleading farmers, did not understand the issues, "far-less know how to solve it".

The minister said under the new arrangement the GCNA would be able to increase its sales and ultimately liquidate its 11 million pounds of stock.

"The GCNA's survival in the 1990's requires an aggressive worldwide marketing system and effort," he remarked. Brizan contended that a special relief payment for growers, in the absence of a bonus, was needed.

He also reported that the administration was seeking assistance from the Belgium firm to help make some advanced payments to the association, enabling farmers to receive a small bonus. Farmers have threatened to demonstrate if they do not receive a bonus this year.

The government is also looking at expanding the handicraft and coconut industries in the new year. Brizan said the fishing industry was growing and noted the administration had formed Grenada Commercial Fisheries Company and was offering 40 per cent of the shares of the new business to fishermen.

"The objective of this is to put the management of the industry into the hands of the fisherman association," he said, adding that there was a need for management training.

Haiti

CEP Members Sworn-In 10 Dec, Goal Explained

FL1412215592 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Excerpts] [Begin recording] [unidentified reporter] The nine members of the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP] were sworn in on the afternoon of 10 December at the Courthouse in Port-au-Prince. On that occasion, the president of the Court of Cassation, Justice Emile Jonassaint, called on the CEP members to fulfill their duties with love, truth, and justice so brotherhood and peace can be established in Haiti. In his speech, delivered during the ceremony, Jean-David Kalim, public prosecutor for the Court of Cassation, explained the importance of the CEP, whose mission is to hold elections in the country. Kalim told the CEP members that dignity, independence, and impartiality must be used as a compass in the work they have to do. [passage omitted]

One of the members of the CEP, Francis Merisier, spoke in the name of his colleagues, explaining that the CEP was never formed under previous governments because they did not want to share the pie. According to Merisier, none of the Haitian governments—including those that were elected and those that came to power by compromise—showed that they were actually willing to set up the CEP. He thanks the current government for having chosen him as a CEP member and says he hopes to do this job straightforwardly. Let us listen to Merisier.

[Merisier] The country thought it was taking its first steps toward democracy by supporting the establishment of the 1990 Provisional Electoral Council, which held the 16 December 1990 and 20 January 1991 elections. One expected the formation of the CEP as the first action of a responsible government. How long did one again have to wait? Unfortunately, it is important to some politicians in power to do everything possible to achieve an autocratic system. One had to prepare for that; the pie was too sweet to be shared. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Merisier added that the 1990 elections did not bring democracy to the country, but that they were a step toward democracy. [passage omitted]

We will recall that Francis Merisier is a former member of the Provisional Electoral Council which held the December 1990 elections. Merisier finally asked all sectors in the country to unite to move Haiti forward, and called on them to help the CEP members do their jobs under proper conditions. [end recording]

CEP Set; Leaders Reject Elections

FL1412230592 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] The Electoral Council bureau has been set up since 11 December. Baltazar Sainphar Line is president of the CEP [Permanent Electoral Council]. He will be assisted by its vice president, Dr. Jean-Robert Legros. Joseph Apolon is the secretary general of the electoral institution, and Bernadotte Larosilliere the treasurer. The bureau has been set up for three years. The CEP will work toward holding the senatorial elections for the renewal of a third of the Senate.

Several political leaders reject the formation of the Electoral Council and these leaders, including Professor De Ronceray of the Mobilization For National Development will not take part in the coming senatorial elections.

ACP/EC Delegation Advocates Negotiated Solution

FL1412224692 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] The Africa-Caribbean-Pacific/European Community [ACP/EC] delegation that arrived in the country at the end of last week finished its visit on 11 December after three days in Haiti. During its visit, the delegation met with the president, members of the Haitian Parliament, officials of several political parties, Father Aristide's presidential committee, the commander in chief of the Army and the entire general staff, representatives of the private sector, representatives of the Non-Governmental Organizations [ONG], and union representatives.

In a communique published at the conclusion of their visit, the members of the ACP delegation said that to resolve the Haitian crisis, there should be negotiations among all concerned parties before the return to constitutional order can be considered. The ACP delegation pointed out that all concerned parties should put their personal interests aside so they can find a negotiated solution to the country's crisis, a solution that does not....[pauses], which returns the ousted president to power.

On 10 December [words indistinct], Professor Hubert De Ronceray, who represents the Mobilization for National Development [MDN] pointed out that the ACP position is similar to the stand taken by the United Nations and the OAS on the Haitian crisis. This resolution, however, asks that the Lome IV Convention put greater assistance at the disposal of the Haitian ONG's ,he social organizations, and the human rights organizations. De Ronceray, who signed the MDN comn.unique following the visit of the ACP delegation, says he believes that, thanks to that visit, the EC will have a new opinion of the Haitian crisis instead of hearing only one side of its history as it had been being done since 30 September 1991.

Before they left the country, the members of the ACP delegation said they would present their plan to the EC so that organization can increase the amount of humanitarian aid it used to provide to Haiti. The idea of a negotiated solution mentioned in the communique of the ACP continues to circulate among the Haitian political class this week, especially in the National Congress of Democratic Movements that has stated its position on the political situation Haiti has been living through since 30 September 1991. It has again launched the idea of a concerted action to resolve the crisis that Haiti has been experiencing.

Jamaica

Bank Workers End Week-Long Strike

FL1112191192 Bridgetown CANA in English 1758 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 11, CANA—Jamaica's Central Bank reopened for business Friday [11 December] as 400 workers on strike for a week returned to their jobs.

The decision to end the strike followed a seven-hour meeting between worker representatives and management and the intervention of Labour Minister Portia Simpson Thursday.

The workers, represented by the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU), took the action to protest government's refusal to give details of salary increases recommended by the public sector's permanent salaries review board.

A compromise reached at Thursday's meeting requires the dispute to be referred to Jamaica's industrial court - the Industrial Disputes Tribunal. The Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) and the BITU will also meet to negotiate items of claim which were not considered by the Salaries Review Board.

Earlier this week, Finance Minister Hugh Small threatened to use soldiers to break the striking workers picket

lines and gain access to cash locked away in the bank's vaults. The minister's threat was motivated by public reports that commercial banks were running short of monetary notes and coins because of the strike.

St. Lucia

Prime Minister: Difficult Economic Choices Ahead

FL1412184592 Bridgetown CANA in English 1826 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Dec 14, CANA—St. Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton, describing 1992 as "an eventful year", says the task ahead for future socio-economic growth will not be easy.

"St. Lucia is at the crossroads and as an independent country, the choice of which road we follow is ours to make," he said in a message marking the island's National Day on Sunday [13 December].

Compton said that while the island's economy had performed well, "the task ahead is not an easy one particularly when we see our sources of aid dwindling and the banana industry which is our main income earner threatened".

St. Lucia and other Caribbean banana producing states have been lobbying Europe to maintain the preferential treatment they presently enjoy for the sale of their fruit in Europe after the single market comes into being in 1992.

However that position is strongly opposed by the so-called "dollar fruit" countries of Latin America and United States interests.

"This calls as I have often said, for total mobilisation of our people and our resources. It calls for dedication and for sacrifice. It calls for restraint all round in our wage and salary demands so that there can be savings for investment in our future," Compton said.

"We cannot get out of the system more than we put in production of better quality goods and the delivery of higher stanards of service," he added.

Compton outlined six areas in which he said the island must continue to develop in order to solve "the problems which we all recognise still plague us".

These include improving the agricultural sector to "produce more of what we eat", adopting a thriftier approach so as "to save more of what we earn" and St. Lucians becoming "more entrepreneurial and self-reliant, creating small business enterprises rather than depending on government to provide jobs for all".

Compton also called for a better work ethic, adding "We must realise that we are a trading nation, we live primarily on what we earn from the goods, primarily bananas and the services, primarily tourism".

"If we all agree on these things, then St. Lucia is well on the road to sustained development and social and economic advancement," he said.

A number of sporting and cultural activities have been planned to commemorate National Day, culminating with a sports awards dinner Friday.

Gas Dealers Again Threaten Protest Action

FL1112171892 Bridgetown CANA in English 1552 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Dec 10, CANA—Less than two weeks after closing down their gas stations across the island, petroleum dealers in St. Lucia were on Thursday [10 December] gearing for further action to pressure the government into meeting their demands for a higher profit margin.

President of the St. Lucia Petroleum Dealers Association John Elliott told reporters that his association would be announcing its position for further protest action on Saturday.

Elliott said that the association had been "unofficially informed by the Ministry of Trade that cabinet did not approve our request for an interim increase pending the outcome of a review proposed by government.

"In the light of this, we the dealers are now forced to consider the appropriate action to be taken to reduce our cost of operations. We will be informing the public of this action by Saturday," he said.

The dealers are seeking a 10 per cent increase in their profit margin and have called upon the government to reduce the consumption tax on petroleum products as a means of achieving the target.

But Prime Minister John Compton has dismissed the dealers' request instead, urging them to await the outcome of an examination into the industry by the Guyana-based Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretariat.

The dealers late last month closed their gas stations across the island in protest, but re-opened after one day, following a decision by Trade and Industry Minister George Mallet to discuss the issue with them.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Opposition Calls For Utilities Commission

FL1512010592 Bridgetown CANA in English 2132 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Dec 14, CANA—St. Vincent and the Grenadines' opposition Movement for National Unity (MNU) has renewed a call for the establishment of a public utilities commission to decide on rate increases for various services.

The call in the party's organ, "Unity," comes in the wake of an announcement by the British multi-national telecommunications company, Cable and Wireless, that a new telephone rate structure would be applied here from January 1 next year. The main feature of the new structure, which has been approved by cabinet, is for standardised consumer rates, which would result in reduced costs for some subscribers and increases for others.

"The love-fest and, alternately, jaw-boning between the utility companies or bodies, and the government, is no way to regulate rates in a civilised democratic society," the party noted. "What is needed is an independent, public utilities commission backed by a statutory force to which the public utility bodies would submit their proposals for rates adjustment and upon which the public and government would have the right to make their reasoned submissions at public hearings."

The party charged that, as was the case in Barbados, such a body would provide a more open, democratic, and scientific approach to rate setting.

"The experience shows that basic rates would be kept lower and companies would be forced to be more cost-effective without loss of efficiency."

With particular reference to the new rate structure announced by Cable and Wireless, the party said: "It is utterly amazing that effective increases are announced by the telephone company, yet they are packaged as relief to consumers." Under the new structure, subscribers could save on international calls; however, residents in the capital, kingstown, and suburban areas would experience increased costs.

Trinidad and Tobago

Minister Warns of Oil-Price Effect on Budget

FL1312235892 Bridgetown CANA in English 1843 GMT 14 Dec 92

[By Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 14, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Finance Minister Wendell Mottley said Monday depressed international oil prices would affect the 1993 budget which was compiled on the basis of a barrel of oil worth 21 dollars (U.S.).

"It does affect the budget. I clearly told the population that we used U.S.21 dollars a barrel," Mottley told reporters. "That, at the time when the budget was being prepared, seemed like a good number. We consulted the Ministry of Energy, we consulted the IMF (International Monetary Fund), and the World Bank, who have experts in the field. "We were told that was a good number to pluck."

But Mottley said that he was not pessimistic at the moment. "It's something we have to review, but there is by no means any reason to push any panic buttons at this stage."

The finance minister, who returned home late last week from an investment promotion visit to the United States for the country's energy sector, said if prices continued to fall, government would respond with a plan B.

"...There's the hedge possibility, which reduces the worst outside risks. It does not reduce all risks, but it removes the worst outside scenario," he said, adding that the government was looking at it.

"Again, the population would have to understand that the expenditure numbers in the budget were predicted on certain outcomes on the revenue side, and if the revenue side is seriously damaged, then you have to rein back in your expenditure. So in a sense, there's a plan B and A plan C."

About his trip abroad, Mottley said that two United States corporations were interested in investing in the oil, gas, and petrochemical sectors of Trinidad and Tobago, and an annoucement about their "large" financial investment would be made soon. While the corporations were not worried about industrial unrest in the country, the minister said they were concerned about sabotage to plant and machinery.

"They're very concerned about making their operations in the U.S vulnerable to situations here ... What they're concerned about is sabotage, and elements that could prejudice the integrity and security of their operations which would be integrally linked to the Trinidad arm of the operations," he said.

Stating that there was a need for a deep understanding about the country's economic problems, the finance minister said that a "radical demarkation" from the past was also needed. The understanding of it doesn't seep through in one session. You go through several ... Until the country deeply understand the circumstances by which it exists," said Mottley.

Belize

Nation To Host Central American Presidents in Feb

FL1412172792 Bridgetown CANA in English 1546 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Belize City, Dec 13, CANA—The presidents of Central America are to meet in Belize next February for their annual conference aimed at developing closer ties, Belize Prime Minister George Price has announced here.

Price returned Saturday [12 December] from the 13th Summit of Presidents of Central America which was held in Panama City.

The prime minister said Belize saw itself as the bridge between the sub-regions of Central America and Caribbean and next February's meeting could prove beneficial in the pursuit of uniting the two groups.

He said formation of an economic group involving Caribbean and Latin American countries was necessary to face "the big problems arising and opportunities from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)".

NAFTA is a hemispheric free trade accord being promoted by Washington.

"It's another step in the right direction," said Price. "...A slow process but it's coming together. And there's no denying it, Belize by geography is in Central America. We are a member of the community and now both sides have agreed that they must come together."

The prime minister said the summit dealt with various issues, including the latest developments in the long standing Guatemalan claim to Belizean territory.

"The summit expressed satisfaction that the court and the Congress in Guatemala decided that President Serrano did not violate the Constitution when he recognised the independence of Belize, and when diplomatic relations were established. And the summit urged both sides, Guatemala and Belize, to go to negotiations with the hope that we can reach a just and a satisfactory settlement. Of course we will hold to our views and we will try where possible to reach agreement," he said.

On the future of the banana industry in a single European market, Price said: "The Central American producers recognised that there are legal obligations under the Lome Convention regarding Belizean and Caribbean bananas." The banana issue is a hot topic for both regions, with the Caribbean seeking to retain preferential treatment for their produce in a single market amid fears of major market losses.

El Salvador

FMLN Reportedly Demobilizes 'Last Contingent'

PA1412191392 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1815 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Report by Daisy Villalobos]

[Text] Herson Martinez has reported that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] demobilized its last contingent of combatants on 14 December, one day before the end of the armed conflict.

The FMLN on 14 December, one day before the agreement implementation schedule, began the total demobilization of its last contingent of combatants so as to to further the peace process, Commander Herson Martinez announced:

[Begin Martinez recording] The full process of demobilization of the guerrilla army began on 14 December. Following an order by the General Command, the demobilization of the last 5 percent of combatants began at 0600 on 14 December, thereby completing the demobilization of over 7,500 combatants of the National Army for Democracy.

This event was scheduled to take place on 15 December. The FMLN—as it has done on other occasions and to further the peace process—advanced the demobilization process one day. The FMLN hopes to conclude its demobilization on 14 December. This is why this process began at 0600.

What does 15 December mean to us? We said there are three historical dates marking important events in the country. First, 16 November 1991 marked the end of the war. On that day, the FMLN made a unilateral cease-fire declaration, beginning the end of the war. This was an historical day. The second historical date was 16 January 1992, when the government finally agreed to sign the peace treaty and we began the postwar period. The period of the cease-fire then began. Now, 15 December marks the end of the cease-fire period. In other words, the period during which the rifles became silent—what some people have called the armed peace—ended. We now begin a new postwar period, in which one of the two armies no longer exists, so the cease-fire period is over. [end recording]

Commander Herson Martinez said that beginning on 15 December the second part of the peace process begins the official end of the armed conflict. This part deals with the substantial implementation of the accords.

[Begin Martinez recording] In reality, this marks the beginning of the second important period of the peace process. This period deals with the substantial implementation of the accords. So far, we have laid the foundation of a building for democratic peace. We are now entering the second important phase, a period of essential change in the country. [end recording]

Herson Martinez made these statements during a joint news conference with leaders of the country's labor and social forces. These forces will commemorate the end of the armed conflict on 15 December.

Meanwhile, labor leader Arturo Magana said the 15 December celebration will be dedicated to the families who lost their children and to reaffirm that the struggle for the full validity of democracy is not yet over.

FMLN Commander Hails End of War

PA1512020092 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Interview with Commander Leonel Gonzalez, member of the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, by Reporter Armando Salazar in Guarjila, Chalatenango Department—live]

[Text] [Salazar] Commander, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrilla army was dismantled on 14 December after many years of armed struggle in our country. What does the dismantling of the FMLN's military structure mean to you as a member of the General Command?

[Gonzalez] December 14 and December 15, when a very solemn public ceremony will take place, are historical days in our country's annals and life. They constitute a process of change, of surging forward, and the FMLN's role as one of the leading actors in this history is important. Ours is the history of a search for a better life for our people, of improved conditions for the masses of this country. On this 14 December, we are concluding our demobilization and gathering our weapons. The FMLN feels it is thus fulfilling its pledge, and very significant progress has been made with the peace agreements.

On the evening of 14 December, the FMLN will also be legalized as a political party. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal will present the document that establishes the FMLN's legal status to FMLN representatives. All of this symbolizes the FMLN's continued struggle, first for the [words indistinct] peace agreements. The peace agreements mean reform in this country, reform that has already begun. On 13 December, the Legislative Assembly also passed an electoral code reform and a law that provides protection for the soldiers maimed in the war and not only for the former FMLN fighters. The Assembly also approved reforms of the Judgeship Council [Consejo de la Judicatura], which has played an important role in achieving a certain level of (?judicial) independence. What we are talking about is a process of change and transformation that is under way in this country. It is also shows that this country is currently giving the FMLN [word indistinct] to dismantle its military structure, which traditionally (?and over the past 12 years) has played an important role in achieving these transformations and peace agreements.

Now that the FMLN will be legalized, it will send a message to the country to the effect that the FMLN will continue in the struggle to achieve (?the dreams) and ideals stated in the peace agreements. We also believe we must try to continue intensifying these transformations for the well-being of the masses of this country.

[Salazar] Commander, what will the FMLN do over the next few days [words indistinct] the formal end of the war in El Salvador?

[Gonzalez] We have already planned meetings with the UN secretary general and other UN envoys, and also with representatives from the many governments who will be participating in the ceremony. This is very important because we have achieved peace and a cease-fire and the implementation of the agreements must continue. There are agreements involving the deployment of the National Civilian Police and the land issue which has three parts and will conclude in September 1993. The National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace [Copaz] is trying to establish whether or not the agreements are being fulfilled, and it is specifically studying legal draft bills; these are some of Copaz' pledges. I believe the guerrillas and government representatives should reaffirm their pledges to the international community to [word indistinct] and the countries that have been providing economic aid to this country [words indistinct].

Commander Says 'Struggle Continues'

PA1512130392 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] On 14 December Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] Commander Facundo Guardado spoke at the main ceremony marking the definite dismantling of the FMLN military structure. This event took place in San Antonio Los Ranchos, an FMLN stronghold during the war. We now present part of FMLN Commander Guardado's speech.

[Begin Guardado recording] The mission is not yet concluded. Our struggle has been for social justice, for a democratic society, one more humane, more just, and more honorable for all Salvadorans. This struggle continues. It continues with the same determination, bravery, and heroism with which we have been fighting for the past 12 years. Now, my comrades, now [words indistinct], we have the great opportunity to change our country. On this day we are in a land of heroes, a land of patriots, a land where thousands and thousands of Salvadorans and Chalatecans decided once and for all to change this country. We are changing it, and we will change it for the benefit of the great majority of people who demand it. That is our commitment. [end recording]

Several Articles in Electoral Code Approved

PA1412180792 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] On 13 December, the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly approved more than 50 percent of the articles

in the new Electoral Code that must be ready before 15 December, which is the deadline established for complying with the peace agreements between the government and the guerrillas.

A Legislative Assembly spokesman said deputies had a brief recess and then continued the sessions in the early hours of 14 December to approve the law.

This is the last legislative measure required to comply with the peace agreements signed on 16 January. In previous sessions, the Assembly approved a law to protect those who were crippled during the country's 12-year civil war, another commitment included in the peace agreements. On 11 December, the Legislative Assembly approved a law on the Judicature of Judicial Career, although some aspects were left pending for the next legislative period.

There were some discrepancies between the Democratic Convergence parties, the Christian Democratic Party, and the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance during the session to approve the Electoral Code regarding the Electoral Tribunal and the characteristics of Municipal Councils. Approximately 100 articles were voted on and approved, although the Code has more than 200 articles. The new Electoral Code will regulate the 1994 elections and future elections in the country.

* Agricultural Training for Ex-FMLN Combatants

93P40066A San Salvador EL SALVADOR PROCESO in Spanish 25 Nov 92 p 6

[Text] On 18 November, the National Reconstruction Office, in coordination with the UN Development Program (PNUD), Onusal [UN Obervers for El Salvador], and the 16 January Foundation inaugurated the first agricultural training course for former FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] combatants in Aguacayo, located in Suchitoto jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department. The Agricultural Training Program will provide instruction for 6,500 demobilized combatants at a cost of 27.5 million colones. This program will address farm administration, cost and credit management, as well as other agricxultural activities which can provide participants with a steady income.

Nicaragua

Lacayo Discusses U.S. Aid, Economy, Strikes

PA1412183992 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo said he will meet with U.S. Democratic Party leaders, to whom he will explain the losses sustained by the country due to the delay in receiving U.S. aid. Lacayo also said the adjustments for the reorganization of the national economy will continue to be implemented in 1993.

[Begin recording] [Lacayo] Democratic Party congressmen have insisted on the need for us to travel to the United States to establish relations with officials who are already working on President-elect Clinton's transition period. Congressman Bill Alexander, who was here in Nicaragua two or three months ago, has been insisting on this and with his help we have scheduled a meeting with State Department officials for tomorrow (?14 December).

Democratic Party congressmen are referring us to Republican Party officials. We are going to be meeting with Mr. (Brian Atwood) and [name indistinct], who are top Democratic Party officials at the State Department. We are also going to hold meetings with Democratic Party Congressmen Lee Hamilton, Bill Alexander, and possibly with David Obey. These meetings are very important for Nicaragua because these men are members of finance committees. We are going to talk about the aid for 1993 and our country's situation. We are also going to visit officials of the current administration, especially Mr. Brent Scowcroft, the assistant to the president for national security affairs, to thank him for the disbursement of aid and explain to him the damage caused by the aid delay. It is good for them to know about the effects we experienced from the delay in aid.

[Unidentified reporter] The Social Christian Party held its convention and they spoke of a political truce, which has the support of the government. [passage indistinct]

[Lacayo] The best we can do is to stay on the same path. We have to keep our national government alive just as Violeta Chamorro's government has been since 1990. It is a government that is not influenced by party interests. We have told the different political parties that this is a time to think about Nicaragua. This is not a time for each to think about his own political opportunities. In this regard, the call the Social Christian Party made for a truce in 1993 is a good one. Instead of going around giving political speeches and going on political campaigns or getting involved in takeovers, strikes, and violent attitudes, we should spend our time producing and pushing Nicaragua ahead. This is a position that is fully shared by the government of Mrs. Violeta Chamorro.

[Reporter] Will the government continue with the economic adjustment program?

[Lacayo] Pardon me?

[Reporter] Will you continue with the economic adjustment program?

[Lacayo] I believe we should continue with this economic adjustment program, at least until the year 2000, because the Nicaraguan economy has declined over the past 14 years. The Nicaraguan economy began to decline in 1978. The recovery of our economy is a task that will take us at least 10 or 15 years. In this regard, we must take measures that will promote production, exports, jobs, and the reactivation of our infrastructure until we can have a country with an economy that can allow us a

little breathing room, but this is going to take a long time and the Nicaraguan people know that.

[Reporter] What are the results of the economic adjustment program for this year?

[Lacayo] The results are obvious. Inflation was curbed. We are going to end the year with a 5 or 6-percent inflation rate, which is very low. We were able to curb the drop in GDP, which had been falling for the past 20 years. This year we are going to have modest growth in our economy, at least a 1-percent growth, and we believe our economy can grow in 1993 by 3 or 4 percent, perhaps a little more. The results can be seen.

If the Nicaraguan economy continued to decline, if the inflation rate continued to increase, we would really be out of it, but that is not the case. This does not mean the situation is one of prosperity, the government has never said the situation is one of prosperity, but we are on the right path. There is no alternate path and, as I said before, no political, social force in this country has offered an alternate to the path being followed by our economic program. The only thing they have offered are small adjustments, which we are willing to make.

[Reporter] What about the labor conflicts and what will happen to the workers who are still under arrest?

[Lacayo] As for the workers who are under arrest, that is a police matter; it is a judicial matter. That will be resolved by the National Police and the courts of justice. There are practically no other labor conflicts. Thank God, in our health sector the situation is being resolved, which shows that the strike is not as extensive as the media had been reporting. Health Ministry statistics show that we have provided more health services in December 1992 than in December 1991 to this day, which means hospitals are handling emergencies and they are working. Appearances are deceptive. We must assist those needing assistance. [end recording]

Cesar Scores Presidency, Finance Ministers

PA1212220892 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] During the 10 December session of the Chamber of Deputies, National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar presented to the plenary a resolution condemning Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo and Finance Minister Emilio Pereira Alegria for meddling in the legislative branch. The resolution was approved by the deputies.

[Begin Cesar recording] 1. In statements to the media on 10 December the presidency minister and other public officials said the allotments of the national budget for the National Assembly will not be delivered to this state branch in order to force it to fulfill ruling number 171 of the Supreme Court of Justice in spite of its absolute lack of authority and competence.

Whereas: 2. Through Resolution 26 of 5 October 1992, the National Assembly already denounced and censured the finance minister for the retention of the monthly allotments which, in accordance with Article 30 of the Budget Law, should be delivered on the first 10 days of the month to the legislative branch.

3. These actions are part of a strategy aimed at subjecting the legislative branch to the policies and interests of the executive branch and the minority Sandinist National Liberation Front, which would cause a serious institutional crisis that may jeopardize the democratization process started with the victory of the National Opposition Union in the elections of 25 February 1990.

4. The decision of not delivering the corresponding budget allotments to this state branch constitutes the following crimes:

a) Disobeying the law—in accordance with Article 377 of the Penal Code, paragraphs 1, 4, and 5, by not fulfilling the General Budget Law and the Budget Regime Laws.

b) Sedition—in accordance with Article 503 of the Penal Code, paragraph 3, by blocking the operation of the legislative branch.

c) Inciting to disregard the Constitution—in accordance with Article 522 of the Penal Code, by violating Article 129 of the Constitution, which establishes the independence of the state branches.

In light of the foregoing considerations, the National Assembly decides to: 1. Strongly condemn the unconstitutional and illegal statements made by the presidency minister and other officials of the executive branch in an attempt to unduly apply sanctions on the legislative branch, subject it, and block its operation, thus, attacking the country's democratic institutions.

2. Call on the executive branch so that it channels its political conduct into the de jure regime and the democratic process for which the Nicaraguan people voted on 25 February 1990.

3. Send a copy of this resolution to the parliaments of the friendly democratic countries, Central American Parliament, Latin American Parliament, World Inter-Parliamentary Union, United Nations, OAS, and the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

Issued in Managua, at the National Assembly sessions hall on 10 December 1992. [end recording]

UNO Creates Commission To Deal With FSLN

PA1512020192 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Dec 92 p 10

[By Noel Irias]

[Text] Roberto Urroz, leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, has reported that leaders of National Opposition Union [UNO] parties represented in the National Assembly, after meeting for five hours behind closed doors at Montelimar on 12 December, agreed to

establish a "commission to urge the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] to find a political solution to the conflict in the National Assembly before 9 January."

On 14 December commission members Eli Altamirano, Adolfo Jarquin, Hernaldo Zuniga, and Cairo Manuel Lopez will issue a communique on the main agreements reached at the meeting and the mandate they received to negotiate with the FSLN.

Among the topics discussed by the 12 leaders of the UNO bloc at this third behind-closed-doors meeting at Montelimar was "the leadership of the upcoming legislature," said Dr. Miriam Arguello, one of the presidential candidates of the Legislative Branch.

When asked whether this meeting improved her candidacy for the parliament presidency, Arguello replied: "I do not know. We did not discuss that."

Our sources, however, said Dr. Arguello "thinks she has 80 percent of the support her candidacy requires."

National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar said they agreed on "the 1993 legislative strategy, especially the strategy from now to 9 January," the date when the new directorate will be elected.

Cesar pointed out that as of 12 December there will no longer be "initiatives by leaders of the UNO bloc to contact the FSLN and other political forces," because all such contacts will "be channeled through this official commission."

Social Christian Party Proposes 'Political Truce'

PA1512020292 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Dec 92 p 12

[Report by Denis Garcia Salinas]

[Text] The government decided to accept the "patriotic truce" to save Nicaragua proposed by the Social Christian Party (PSC) on 12 December. The PSC, which is headed by Francisco Taboada, called on all politicians to abstain from making "violent election campaign speeches," and the unions to cease their continuous strikes.

PSC President Francisco Taboada read a proposal where he also suggests that the government immediately initiate a national dialogue to collectively establish a "1993 Nicaraguan Agenda" which should not exclude any sector of the civilian society.

Taboada made the proposal during the PSC Third National Directorate closing ceremony. The emblem used by the PSC is a small fish. The Third National Directorate met at the party offices located in Ciudad Jardin, Managua. Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, among others, participated in the event as a special guest.

The high government official, speaking as the representative of President Violeta Chamorro, accepted the PSC proposal calling for an end to all sorts of campaigns of political attacks, counterattacks, violent election speeches, demagogic speeches, strikes, armed confrontation, terrorism, blackma.., as well as all acts that may incite or ignite instability in the country.

Gustavo Tablada, principal leader of the "Center Bloc," and other national leaders were present at the event. In addition, PSC Secretary General Erick Ramirez, one of the most renown leaders of the Christian political movement, was also at the head table.

In one of the most fundamental parts of the truce, the Social Christians are recommending the Sandinist bloc and the National Opposition Union [UNO] prepare a parliamentary agenda that takes a "constitutional reforms project" into consideration. The Sandinist bloc decided to walk out of the National Assembly after the crisis broke out following the election of the two legislative branch directors. At the same time, the PSC proposes the election of a new "consensus" board of directors.

The PSC political truce proposal takes place exactly when the National Assembly has still not complied with the Supreme Court of Justice ruling canceling the controversial assembly session that elected the National Assembly board without having the necessary legal majority. The proposal also comes at a time when a church leader speaks of friction with the government.

Likewise, the PSC says that a "Follow Up Commission" of the "Nicaragua Agenda" will be appointed at the national dialogue. The commission will be responsible for permanent evaluation of the progress of the objectives and the performance of each of the organizations and the unions.

The PSC truce must also have a schedule stipulating concrete events to be undertaken and dates by which events must be carried out in order for the organizations to comply with the points established in the "Nicaragua Agenda".

Finally, the Social Christians affirm that a "national document" must be prepared and addressed to friendly nations and international organizations where all dialogue participants divulge the content of the Patriotic Truce as well as express their commitment to the Nicaragua Agenda.

Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo praised the PSC truce proposal and urged all participants to thoroughly promote the path of tolerance and dialogue. According to Lacayo, those center positions carry civic spirit and future.

Lacayo disclosed that all Nicaraguans must work to banish and end all extremist positions, from the right as well as the left. He said it is necessary to take away "steam" from those positions, because in a country that has high unemployment like Nicaragua, such positions are very dangerous.

The minister insisted on rejecting the type of political revenge that took place in the past. He said that if the government asked for the "heads of and penalties for" the

former Sandinist government officials, it would be "repeating the history of confrontation" of previous years.

At the conclusion of this speech, Lacayo expressed optimism that the National Assembly conflict would be solved very soon, and he stated that he hopes that by 10 January 1993 they will be electing a new board of directors that will satisfy the Sandinists and the UNO.

Panama

Customs Director on Special Operations Group

PA1412192292 Panama City Radio MW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena by Eula Bellotti Montesa; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bellotti] We have Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena on the telephone. Mr. Arosemena, could you tell us if it is true that the General Customs Directorate has created a special group to make arrests and carry out searches without any legislative approval?

[Arosemena] The Panamanian laws, our tax laws, and the customs law state that the General Customs Directorate's oversight group is authorized to bear arms, make arrests, carry out searches, and perform other duties. I think this news, evidence of which I have not yet seen, is groundless. The law itself already entitles us to carry out this type of action. What the General Customs Directorate is planning to do next year, and it has informed the media about this, is to create a border customs surveillance service. This is necessary to eradicate smuggling, gun-running, and drug trafficking. If LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA deems this action inappropriate, an action which benefits the owners of the newspaper and the Panamanian people, then there is something wrong. The truth is that the current law states that the General Customs Directorate personnel, as I said before, have these functions.

[Bellotti] Would you say this group called GROEPS [expansion unknown] exists within the General Customs Directorate?

[Arosemena] Yes. This is a special group established and trained to control smuggling. I do not understand why there is so much concern about it. This group was created in 1990 in accordance with the customs law and has operated since then without any problem.

Legislator Cochez Denounces Refinery Contract

PA1412210292 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Legislator Guillermo Cochez said economic and political interests surround the refinery contract.

[Begin Cochez recording] This contract harms our national interests because it could increase the cost of electricity for Panamanians, as the director of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification [IRHE] said. As the attorney general has stated, it could also violate our present Constitution. This contract cannot be approved until all the portions that violate the Constitution are corrected.

We have learned that steps have been taken to dismiss the IRHE's general director and the attorney general for having pointed out the constitutional flaws contained in the refinery contract. I also learned that emissaries arrived over the weekend of 12 December to pressure and to force the Panamanian Government into signing this contract. I do not know whether they are from the U.S. State Department or if they are U.S. senators. [end recording]

Argentina

French Defense Minister Joxe Arrives for Talks

PY1412224192 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2148 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (TELAM)—French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe arrived today for an official two-day visit, during which he will meet with Argentine Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez to study strengthening cooperation and exchange between the Armed Forces of the two countries.

The desire for cooperation between the Paris and Buenos Aires governments emerged after the trips made to France by President Carlos Menem and Minister Gonzalez, who agreed with the French Government on a system of consultations to discuss "at the highest levels" bilateral issues in the defense area. [passage omitted]

The French minister arrived at noon at Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport, on board a Falcon 900 airplane. He was welcomed by Military Affairs Secretary Antonio Ferreira Pinho, Politics and Strategy Under Secretary Felix Gonzalez Bonorino, and French Ambassador (Pierre Guidoni).

The French defense minister, who will stay in the country for 24 hours [as published], left early this afternoon for Azul to visit the military installations of the 10th Tank Regiment and the 1st Artillery Group.

Tomorrow at 1000 Pierre Joxe will meet with Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez in the Defense Ministry. He will then attend a luncheon given in his honor at the Foreign Ministry.

The French minister's visit is part of the plans of the two governments to strengthen cooperation between their Armed Forces.

French Official on 'Growing U.S. Power,' EEC

PY1512113192 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 2 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] In an almost anti-imperialist tone, French foreign minister delegate Georges Kiejman stressed: "Latin America and our country have relationships in common with the United States. The United States has a large social debt with its own people, and it seems the United States now is aiming at reverting such a debt. The question is who will pay the bill." With this confrontational overtone, the French diplomat repeatedly insisted in counterbalancing the "growing U.S. power."

Not by happenstance, Kiejman arrived in Buenos Aires during the Rio Group summit. The Europeans harbor the idea of occupying a place on the international scene at a time when the foreign policies of most Latin American countries tend toward strengthening alliances with the United States.

In the controversial tone he maintained throughout the entire news conference yesterday, the French minister pointed out: "The United States retains 48 percent of the world grain trade while Europe barely retains 13 percent. When we protest over the subsidy agreements, we actually intend to say the United States cannot remain in a dominant position. The United States will begin to set prices and we, all the countries, will be hurt."

Summarizing his strategy, the diplomat said: "A strong EEC is advantageous for the Latin American countries. Likewise, a strong Latin America is important for the EEC." Thus, he obviously hinted at the necessity to confront the growing U.S. power.

Displaying his French irony, Kiejman concluded: "Concerning foreign relations, one can choose to walk on just one leg, but, obviously, it is better to walk on two legs and even crawl on four legs."

Bolivia

Air Force Commander in Chief Relieved From Post

PY1512124292 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] General Dardo Gomez Garcia yesterday was relieved from his post of Air Force commander in chief. He was replaced by FAB [Bolivian Air Force] Chief of Staff General Fernando Sanjinez Yanez, who was Gomez Garcia's second in command. During Gomez Garcia's tenure, an investigation was started into alleged fund mismanagement at a Bolivian Air Force enterprise.

Gen. Sanjinez Yanez is, therefore, the new FAB commander after Gen. Gomez Garcia resigned at noon.

Tupac Katari Chief Named Vice Presidential Candidate

PY1412153992 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Report by (Dinqui Castillo) from Potosi]

[Text] In a news conference to be held at the local Claudia Hotel, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada today will present the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, MNR, candidate for vice president. MNR national President Sanchez de Lozada will introduce Victor Hugo Cardenas, who is national head of the Tupac Katari Revolutionary Movement, as the MNR candidate for vice president.

The MNR president arrived in Potosi after visiting several other provincial towns to present Cardenas' candidacy for the 1993 presidential elections.

Brazil

Military Mission To Join UN Forces in Mozambique

PY1412224392 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Dec 92 p 14

[Article by Sandra Brasil]

[Excerpt] Brasilia—Brazil will be the first country to send a volunteer military mission to participate with the UN peacekeeping force in Mozambique. On 16 December 20 members of the Armed Forces—15 from the Army and five from the Navy—will leave for Maputo, capital of Mozambique, where they will act as UN observers. Members of the Brazilian Armed Forces are participating in similar missions in El Salvador, Angola, and Yugoslavia.

Gilberto Serra, chief of the Army Communications Center (Ceconcex), said: We do not want war because we are in the military. In this type of mission officers fulfill a service for which they are well trained.

The sergeants and officers who participate in the missions are in charge of disarming guerrilla members and keeping UN officials informed about the fulfillment of the peace agreements. [passage omitted]

Possible Joint Antidrug Action With U.S.

PY1412130792 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Dec 92 p 10

[Text] Brasilia—Justice Minister Mauricio Correa said the government is studying ways to cooperate with Canada, France, and especially the United States to fight drug trafficking in Brazilian territory. According to the minister, drug trafficking and drug consumption have grown in the past few years and have become a source of major concern for the ministry.

Through cooperation with the United States, Canada, and France, Brazil will seek to obtain technology, financial support and equipment, and possibly create an anticrime agency like the U.S. DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration). The justice minister's cooperation proposal does not exclude accepting specialists—something that has prompted charges of foreign military intervention in Latin American countries.

Correa said: "We should study and discuss all possibilities. If it worked in other countries, it might be useful for us. The important thing is to tackle the problem, which is our main concern because it is an evil that destroys society." This week, Correa will meet U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton to talk about the subject.

The U.S. Government, which has signed a reciprocal cooperation agreement with Argentina—which now has a local DEA—wants to intensify its joint antidrug operations with Brazil. The minister said that Europeans and Americans want to engage in an antidrug program in Brazil because they also will benefit from it since they are the destination of drug trafficking routes.

Correa said: "Since Brazil was included in international drug trafficking routes, internal consumption has substantially increased. For this reason, 1993 will be the antidrug year. We will set in motion a major campaign to that effect in the next few days."

There will be a debate on the antidrug fight during a nationwide meeting at the Justice Ministry on 21 December. The meeting will be attended by congressmen, representatives of public and private organizations, specialists, and national secretaries of Justice and Security.

Franco To Withdraw Patents Bill From Congress

PY1512112692 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Dec 92 Section 1 p 8

[Article by Sonia Mossri and Elvira Lobato]

[Text] Interim President Itamar Franco will withdraw from Congress the bill submitted by the Collor administration that regulates the rights and obligations of industrial property, known as the patents bill. Franco was impressed by the criticisms made by the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops, CNBB, the Brazilian Attorneys Association, OAB, and the state secretaries of science and technology.

The CNBB sent a letter to interim President Franco criticizing the amendments made to the bill sponsored by Ney Lopes (PFL-RN) [Liberal Front Party-Rio Grande do Norte], amendments that put "a patent on life" by proposing the registry of microorganisms produced in laboratories as industrial property. Nongovernmental organizations also sent letters using the same arguments as the CNBB.

The CNBB, the OAB, and the science and technology secretaries believe that the April 1991 bill is harmful to national industry and they want a transition period for the companies to adapt themselves. The Collor bill proposes the immediate enforcement of industrial patents, including new pharmaceutical products, as soon as the bill is approved. Currently, the multinationals already have 80 percent of the market and 70 percent of the inputs are imported.

The national companies believe the immediate registry of patents on pharmaceutical products would increase the multinationals' control of the Brazilian market even more. One of the largest lobbyists in Congress is the U.S. Embassy and Interfarma, which is the organization that represents the pharmaceutical multinationals.

President George Bush already has threatened to retaliate against Brazil in the commercial area because of "piracy" in the pharmaceutical sector. The Foreign Ministry is waiting for Bill Clinton's inauguration to find out the U.S. Government's new orientation.

The Special Committee on Industrial Property's work is paralyzed. The last meeting was held on 26 June. Deputy Sandra Starling (PT-MG) [Workers Party-Minas

Gerais], special committee president, told FOLHA DE SAO PAULO that she has not called any more meetings because she still is waiting for Itamar Franco's decision on withdrawing the bill submitted by Collor and the party leaders.

The bill received 1,005 amendments and two reports from its sponsor. On 10 December, the party leaders decided the project is not urgent and it will be debated again in February 1993.

The Collor government even promised U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills that the bill would be approved in 1991. The bill was sent to Congress in November 1990 as very urgent, but it was processed on a routine basis due to the controversy created among congressmen.

The bill's sponsor, Ney Lopes, reported that he was pressured by the church, the scientific community, and the national and foreign laboratories. Dante Alario Junior, president of the Association of National Laboratories, disclosed that Brazilian businessmen take turns in groups of two or three and go to Brasilia once a week to debate the bill with deputies, ministers, and advisers.

According to current legislation, Brazil does not recognize patents in the pharmaceutical area, not even for products discovered in the country. Alario Junior added that when researchers want to protect their inventions, they register their patents abroad.

Government Considers Cuts in Pay Salaries

PY1412182092 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Dec 92 p 3

[Article by Sergio Leo]

[Excerpt] Brasilia—The federal budget secretary reported that the government has no money for paying public servants' salaries in December, noting that an additional 11 trillion cruzeiros are necessary to cover the payroll, which this month will amount to 81 trillion cruzeiros. To provide the funds, the government is studying reductions in investments and maintenance expenses (coffee, telephone, electricity, rent, photocopies, traveling, etc.) for the end of this year. This has happened because the 46 trillion-cruzeiro allocation for personnel expenses—even with the 24 trillion-cruzeiro revenue surplus—will not be enough.

The spending reduction proposal will be submitted to President Itamar Franco tomorrow. It will strongly affect the ministries of Social Security, Health, and Education, whose allocations have been provided for by the Constitution. The proposal still has to be submitted to Congress as a bill authorizing the Treasury to provide funds for paying public servants' salaries. Budget Secretary Paulo Fontenelle, who received the latest figures from the ministries on 11 December, has kept secret the reductions he will have to make.

Says an adviser to Planning Minister Paulo Haddad: "The reductions were possible only because even with the confusion of the government changeover, we kept ministry accounts frozen. Otherwise, we would have had to issue bonds to pay the salaries, like in 1989."

The Franco government's administrative reform and the ministries' reluctance to list the expenditures and investments that will be eliminated caused an irregularity in December, as was reported by GLOBO: The government authorized payment of public servants' salaries without yet having the law granting the new allocation adjusted to include the "excessive revenues." On 11 December, the government finished the list of allocations to be restructured for paying salaries. [passage omitted]

Franco Proposes Stock Transfer to Workers

PY1112002892 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] President Itamar Franco has suggested to Labor Force leader Luiz Antonio Medeiros that he submit to the government, on behalf of National Iron and Steel Company [CSN] workers, a proposal to buy the company and give workers control over 52 percent of the company's stock. Franco wants the transfer operation to include a clause giving assurances that there will be no mass dismissals. The CSN auction is scheduled for 22 December, but it is likely to be postponed 30 days.

* Second Round Election Results Assessed

93SM0092A Sao Paulo ISTOE in Portuguese 25 Nov 92 pp 20-22

[Article by Marcelo Bauer: "Popularity of Presidential System Up"]

[Text] *The municipal elections have given the enemies of the parliamentary system a boost.*

The president of the PDS [Social Democratic Party], Paulo Maluf, has more reasons to celebrate than the results of the second round of balloting on Sunday the 15th suggest. Besides defeating Eduardo Suplicy in the race for mayor of Sao Paulo by a margin of 780,000 votes and interrupting a series of five consecutive defeats, Maluf was the only one of the main national political leaders tipped to succeed Itamar Franco who emerged from the elections in a stronger position. For the others—including those whose names were not even on the ballot—the results were dismal. For example, Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes of Bahia lost when his candidate for mayor of Salvador, Manuel Castro of the PFL [Liberal Front Party], was defeated by Lidice da Mata, a former member of the PCdoB [Communist Party of Brazil] who now belongs to the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party]. Nor was it a triumphant day for the president of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], Orestes Quercia, or for the governor of Sao Paulo, Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho: although their party won more city halls than its competitors in most of the states, its candidate Aloysio Nunes Ferreira Filho was not able to qualify for the final

round of balloting in Sao Paulo. Rio de Janeiro Governor Leonel Brizola was a double loser, since his PDT [Democratic Labor Party] fell flat in both Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre. Luis Inacio Lula da Silva also tripped up, since he witnessed the defeat of his PT [Workers Party] in Brazil's two largest cities. Ceara Governor Ciro Gomes (PSDB) was weakened by being defeated at the hands of the PMDB in Fortaleza.

Alongside a string of national losers, there were a few mayors—four in the state capitals—who achieved the feat of getting their chosen successors elected in a year in which the voters were clearly inclined to choose opposition candidates. With his administration supported by most of the residents, Mayor Olivio Dutra of Porto Alegre got his candidate Tarso Genro elected with more than 60 percent of the votes, thus becoming the only PT mayor in the capitals to successfully choose his own successor. "It is a symbolic victory," says Dutra, who attributes the PT's defeat in Sao Paulo and Vitoria partly to the difficult relations between the party and its mayors. "In places where that relationship was more harmonious, as in Porto Alegre, we did well." A career employee of the Rio Grande do Sul State Bank for 31 years, Dutra is preparing to show up for work on 2 January at the bank branch in the Passo da Areia neighborhood, where he lives. Although he avoids talking about a candidate, the banker feels that Genro's victory and the decline of the Brizola group enable the PT to dream of having a chance at the state governorship in 1994. In Santos, Telma de Souza of the PT repeated Dutra's feat with the election of David Capistrano. Telma, who is president of the PT in Sao Paulo, dreams of running for state governor, but first she will have to face an internal quarrel with Federal Deputies Aloizio Mercadante and Jose Dirceu.

Jaime Lerner (PDT), who is famous throughout the country for having transformed Curitiba into a model of administration, is among those who were strengthened without even vying for a post. His choice, State Deputy Rafael Greca, a young man 36 years old who is little known outside Parana, won that race in the first round of balloting with 52 percent of the vote, even though he had been lagging behind Mauricio Fruet, the candidate backed by Governor Roberto Requier of the PMDB. Before devoting himself entirely to Greca's campaign, Lerner had turned down invitations to be a candidate himself in Brazil's two largest cities. Fleury wanted him to run in Sao Paulo, and Brizola wanted him in Rio de Janeiro. The mayor was also unwilling when sounded out to become secretary of science and technology in Itamar Franco's administration.

The election result seems to show that Lerner was right in passing up so many opportunities. Greca's victory has further increased Lerner's prestige, and in the streets of Curitiba, where he is concluding his third term as mayor, Lerner is now treated with the reverence displayed toward presidential candidates, a plan that he swears he is not fostering. "I am not a careerist," he says. "I am convinced that changes begin in the cities," says Lerner, who is certain that the next century "will be that of the municipalities everywhere in the world." Even people from outside Curitiba say they are impressed by a politician who engages in rhetoric of that kind and builds his fame by putting up public works that are inexpensive but esthetically dazzling, and inventing solutions such as the "light bus"—a bus that travels in special lanes with loading and unloading platforms like those in the subway, a system that has been undergoing tests even in New York.

On election day, Lerner was praised by columnist Danuza Leao in an article published in the JORNAL DO BRASIL. In it, Leao addressed a number of requests to Rio de Janeiro's new mayor, whether that turned out to be Cesar Maia or Benedita da Silva. The article concluded with a warning that if his demands were not met, "I am thinking of moving to Curitiba and voting for whomever Jaime Lerner designates." Brazil's most respected mayor says he is ready to pass on his experience to his colleagues and plans to hold a meeting in Curitiba beginning this Monday the 23d for mayors of the capitals—both mayors-elect and those at the end of their terms—to debate a topic with which he is very familiar: "Management for Change." Lerner says: "The solutions are simpler than people usually imagine."

Party Strength: Number of City Halls Controlled by Each Party*

Party	Number
PT	53
PSDB	293
PTB	295
PL	310
PDT	410
PDS	439
PFL	963
PMDB	1,633
Others	529

* Unofficial figures, subject to revision.

Voting in Capitals: Number of Administrations Won by Each Party

Party	Number
PPS[1]	1
PFL	1
PDS	1
PSB[2]	2
PDC[3]	2
PDT	4
PT	4
PMDB	4
PSDB	5

1. [People's Socialist Party]
2. [Brazilian Socialist Party]
3. [Christian Democratic Party]

The supporters of a presidential form of government, who are a minority in Congress—and who were growing steadily weaker as the political crisis leading to Collor's removal grew worse—are celebrating the victory by Paulo Maluf, who is considered an important ally of the current system of government. It is undeniable that his election strengthens that group's position, considering the plebiscite on the system of government that is scheduled for April 1993. But Maluf, a traditional defender of the presidential system, has been sending signals that are confusing some defenders of the parliamentary system such as the coordinator of the Congressional Front, Senator Jose Richa (PSDB, Parana), who still dream of having the support of Sao Paulo's mayor-elect. Another supporter of the parliamentary system, Jarbas Vasconcellos—vice president of the PMDB and mayor-elect of Recife—feels that Maluf's victory will favor the right-wing forces, most of which support the presidential system. Jarbas also feels that the PT is backing away from its stand. "The PT is going to support the presidential system because it has a candidate with strong potential, and that is Lula," Jarbas says. The divided PT is preparing for an internal plebiscite on the system of government. While most of the top party leadership supports a parliamentary system, groups more to the left are excited about the possibility of electing Lula, and they do not want a change in the system of government. "They have a messianic view," says Deputy Jose Genoino (PT, Sao Paulo).

Paulo Maluf has been saying only that neither proposal will succeed unless it is preceded by a thoroughgoing party reform that will control the formation of parties and party changes. "I have not yet made up my mind," he says. Although he is mysterious concerning the plebiscite, Maluf is unable to dissimulate on the subject of his political plans. Before the election, he was assuring everyone that he would stay in office until the end of his term, but now he has changed his tune: "I am thinking of staying on another four years," he said on Wednesday the 18th, and he emphasized the words "thinking of." Maluf's impressive win following his long martyrdom of five defeats puts new breath into the PDS, a party that has been on the decline since Maluf himself lost to Tancredo Neves in the indirect election for president in 1985. "The party has gained a new dimension in terms of image and is reviving," boasts the mayor-elect. In Congress, the PDS is studying proposals either to form a bloc with the PL [Liberal Party] or to participate in the "big bloc" being put together by the PFL. "We have many points of agreement with the PL," claims Deputy Delfim Netto, who says the party should not be in a hurry and that it can wait until the plebiscite before making up its mind. "The PDS is a bride who is taking a rejuvenation treatment, and it is going to surprise people with its beauty."

Maluf has discussed the matter by telephone with the PDS leader in the Chamber of Deputies, Jose Luis Maia (Piaui), and with Senator Esperidiao Amin (Santa Catarina), although he has spent most of his time working on putting his team together. Concerned to bring into his secretariat an eclectic team of collaborators ranging from traditional Maluf supporters to others with more exposure to administration, the mayor-elect of Sao Paulo, who promised some time ago to form a secretariat worthy of a federal cabinet, has called on two former ministers in the economic area, Delfim Netto and Affonso Celso Pastore, to assist him as investment coordinators. With no salary or staff of their own, they will be responsible for obtaining funds inside and outside Brazil without having to give up their normal activities. "It will take me only a few hours a week," says Delfim. Maluf has also appointed economist Marcos Cintra, one of the fathers of the proposed single tax on financial transactions, to be his secretary of finance. For the Secretariat of Culture he has chosen journalist Rodolfo Konder, a former member of the PCB [Brazilian Communist Party] and one of the signers of a document in which, along with artists, union leaders, and politicians, he made his support for Maluf clear without actually naming the candidate.

While the mudslinging campaign paid off in the PDS, it was pointed to in the PT as one of the main reasons for Senator Eduardo Suplicy's defeat. "In the first round, we had a television program without much political content," complains PT president Luis Inacio Lula da Silva. In his opinion, the party paid dearly for its strategy of being embarrassed over Luiza Erundina's administration. In the early stages of the campaign, the PT chose to ignore the PT member's [Erundina's] work as though it had nothing to do with her rather than defend the mayor's attitudes. "We neither defended the mayor nor attacked Maluf. We vacillated in those respects." The victim of a dirty trick by Fernando Collor in 1989, Lula feels that the PT should have used its first free program to exploit an unfortunate sentence by Maluf in the same campaign: "Rape but do not kill." "It was stupid not to have used that sentence," says Lula scornfully. He feels that dirty pool by the PT is more justifiable than that by Collor's people, who were responsible for the TV appearance of one of Lula's former lovers, Miriam Cordeiro, who accused him of suggesting that she get an abortion.

Even though far removed from the municipal administration—and therefore safe from the fallout—the PT in Rio de Janeiro collapsed before the hurdle erected by Cesar Maia (PMDB) and his chief backer, Mayor Marcello Alencar, who belongs to the PDT but is increasingly distancing himself from Brizola. "The results of the municipal election in Rio de Janeiro have given Alencar the potential for national political leadership," says Maia, who has already suggested Alencar as a candidate for governor. The mayor-elect showed that he can work both sides of the political street when he visited Governor Brizola on Wednesday the 18th following a rift that had lasted since he left the PDT in 1990. For his part, Alencar will give up the office of mayor on 1 January and then devote his time to the congressional campaign—a move that creates one more point of friction with the governor. Alencar defends himself by saying: "I was in politics long before I began working closely with Brizola."

Alencar, who was responsible for a number of lighting and infrastructure projects in the poor western zone—which has the city's largest concentration of voters (1.8 million out of a total of 4 million)—assigned his son, State Deputy Marco Antonio, to accompany Maia on the latter's trips in the area. Result: the PMDB candidate jumped from fourth place in the first round of balloting to a spot very close to PT candidate Benedita da Silva. A consistent winner in the southern zone, Maia won city hall by a margin of 106,000 votes and is preparing to repay Alencar's support by taking part in the congressional campaign. He promises: "We will be on the same platform."

As the only party to include the parliamentary system in its party platform, the PSDB is emerging from the elections stronger than when it went in. Beginning in January, it will be the party controlling the most capitals: Salvador, Vitoria, Teresina, Macapa, and Porto Velho. But it met defeat in the country's larger cities such as Sao Paulo, where its top leaders are, and Rio de Janeiro. Moreover, two of the PSDB leaders who apparently have ambitions to soar higher were defeated at the ballot box. They are Tasso Jereissati, the party's national president, and Ciro Gomes, governor of Ceara, who lost the mayor's office in Fortaleza to Antonio Canbraia of the PMDB. On the other hand, the mayor-elect in Salvador, Lidice da Mata, emerges as a promising candidate for higher positions. "Actually, this was the first municipal election in which the PSDB participated," says Senator Jose Richa. "Four years ago, the party had just been organized, and it put up candidates only in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Belo Horizonte to make itself known."

Chile

Foreign Minister Silva Cimma on Cuba, Venezuela

PY1512022892 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 2 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma yesterday opposed the economic and commercial blockade on Cuba and the implementation of the so-called Torricelli Law sanctioned by the U.S. Congress to escalate the offensive against Havana.

Silva Cimma pointed out: "We repudiate that law, as it simply contributes to making worse the situation prevailing on the Caribbean island. The restoration of democracy is a domestic problem. The recent electoral law reform is not enough, but the Santiago government celebrates it as an advancement."

The Chilean foreign minister added that the recent incidents in Venezuela "do not represent a setback in our continent's political evolution, but rather a progressive enhancement of the democratic processes."

Former Prisoners Seek Asylum at Embassies

PY1412200092 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The possible voluntary departure by a group of former political prisoners who this morning occupied the Australian and New Zealand embassies, where they requested political asylum, might take place shortly if an agreement is reached during the meeting Interior Ministry Under Secretary Belisario Velazco will hold with the former prisoners. This information was disclosed by Omar Ambrosales, head of the group of former inmates, who said they will meet with Velazco at 1500 today.

In the meantime, Carabineros Colonel Pedro Diaz, head of the Carabineros Eastern Station, disclosed the events that took place.

[Begin recording] [Diaz] At approximately 0930 today the individuals entered the Australian Embassy premises, requesting political asylum because they believe they are being deprived of their civil rights in Chile.

[Unidentified reporter] Did they request political asylum?

[Diaz] Yes.

[Reporter] Did they act violently?

[Diaz] No. No. Right now the embassy authorities are waiting for a meeting that the leaders of the organization of former political prisoners will hold with the Interior Ministry under secretary. [end recording]

The following individuals are at the moment inside the Australian Embassy: Mauricio Gomez, Heriberto Inostroza, and Luis Montecinos. Pablo Flores and Roberto Zambra are at the New Zealand Embassy in Santiago.

This morning another five individuals tried to barge into the Italian Embassy in Chile. These individuals were arrested and placed at the disposal of the Santiago Criminal Court. [passage omitted] The five people who jumped over the wall into the Italian Embassy were identified as Humberto Vargas, Luis Urbina, Sergio Cerda, Daniel Alfaro, and Marcos Gonzalez.

Ambassadors Reject Asylum Requests

PY1412203592 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Edmundo Vargas has determined that those people inside the Australian and New Zealand embassies are not entitled to political asylum, as these embassies do not represent Latin American countries with which Chile has reached an agreement to grant this type of protection.

[Begin Vargas recording] Political asylum can only be granted to Latin American countries, and only in the case of political persecution, but this is not the case in Chile, where nobody is persecuted for political reasons. [end recording]

Edmundo Vargas confirmed that the Foreign Ministry has the identities of these who occupied the embassies, and that someone being sought by the courts is among them.

He also noted that the Foreign Ministry has not requested the intervention of security forces, which only act at the request of the respective embassies.

The Italian, Australian, and New Zealand ambassadors have already informed the Foreign Ministry of their decisions to not grant these individuals asylum.

Police Arrest Asylum Seekers

PY1512121892 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Carabineros dislodged and arrested the five former political prisoners who occupied the Australian and New Zealand Embassies for the purpose of requesting political asylum.

The decision was made after the leaders of the organization of former political prisoners met Interior Ministry Under Secretary Belisario Velazco and agreed to hold another meeting today.

According to the organization leaders, they decided to request asylum due to the social, political, and labor discrimination against them. [passage omitted]

UDI Prepares Platform, To Elect Candidate

PY1412232892 Santiago EL DIARIO in Spanish 2 Dec 92 p 9

[Article by Gonzalo Mizala]

[Excerpts] Despite the fact that National Renewal Party [RN] leaders are not in agreement, the internal consequences of the tapping of Senator Sebastian Pinera's telephone seem to have immobilized the party, as well as put a cloak of silence over the case.

Political analysts believe that a clear relative advantage has been granted the UDI [Independent Democratic Union], the RN's partner in the Coalition for Progress [Coalicion para el Progreso], which is quickly advancing in the drafting of a government program and the election of a presidential candidate to propose to the coalition. [passage omitted]

The UDI has five basic ideas. The first one is based on institutionalism—in other words, reorganize the state in order to obtain true democracy giving power to the individual.

Regarding security and state defense, the idea is to modernize the Armed Forces and in this way counter crime and terrorism. For this there are proposals related to the functions and reorganization of the Carabineros, the Investigative Police, the Penitentiary Police, and the judicial branch.

A third idea encompasses the economy, and proposes to definitively do away with the state as businessman, or in other words to radically eliminate all enterprises in the hands of the state.

"This means privatizing all enterprises that remain in the hands of the state, in order to create a fund to combat poverty with those resources, which are estimated at $10 billion."

The tax sector is also taken into consideration. It will not be a question of just modifying a tax, but the implementation of a progressive consumer tax that will benefit all Chileans, and not just a few.

In the labor and social security sectors, the plan contemplates a new idea of what business is, in which the workers do not see themselves as the enemies of businessmen. Regarding social security, it suggests that a change be made in the situation of the woman, and proposes a sole family social security account.

Regarding foreign policy, it indicates that in an interdependent world Chile must make its own way, and that there is therefore a need to rationalize and reformulate the Foreign Ministry. "Another idea is related to economic diplomacy, with the understanding that relations between nations are today much more fluid, due to the said interdependency."

[UDI Secretary General Hernan] Larrain announced that the proposal must be approved by the 2500 Convention [as published].

Colombia

Government Offers Rewards for Rebel Leaders

PA1412204492

[Editorial Report] Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 1630 GMT on 14 December carries a two-minute report on the government's efforts to capture guerrilla leaders. It notes that "recalling the atrocious crimes committed by the guerrillas, the government is urging Colombians to report them." The second campaign offering rewards for "these criminals" will begin in a few hours, the report notes.

It adds: "These are the advertisements offering rewards for the main guerrilla leaders that Colombians will watch beginning 15 December:" The camera then shows close-up shots of still photographs of the following rebel leaders: Manuel Perez M., alias "Poliarco"; Pedro A. Marin, alias "Tirofijo"; Francisco Caraballo; Nicolas Rodriguez, alias "Gabino"; Edgar Devia S., alias "Raul Reyes"; Guillermo Leon Saenz V., alias "Alfonso Cano." The report states that the national government decided to publish their names, despite threats by the Guerrilla Coordinating Board that "it would increase terrorist actions if a price was placed on the heads of their leaders."

The report shows file footage of dead bodies and damage caused by oil spills resulting from guerrillas blowing up pipelines. Along with these shots, photos of each leader are shown, accompanied by the amount the Colombian Government is offering "for information that will lead to their capture": 1 billion pesos for Marin, 1 billion pesos for Perez, 100 million pesos for Caraballo, and 500 million pesos for Rodriguez, Devia, and Leon Saenz.

The report states that these advertisements will be posted in every department. It concludes by noting that "regional newspapers will carry the photos of guerrilla leaders who operate in each area. The national government will pay 20 million pesos to anyone furnishing information on any leader of the People's Militias."

Decrees Issued To Fight Guerrillas, Crime

PA1512034092 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] The government on 14 December issued five new decrees to counteract guerrilla violence and organized crime throughout the nation. Among the news measures adopted are: the payment of taxes and royalties, more money for social funds, support for the transportation sector, and measures for police purging, among others.

To increase National Police efficiency, the government resolved to modify a status of the career officers and sergeant majors by eliminating the requirement of being single and retirement during any time of service. With good organization and professionalism there is an attempt to recover—before anything—credibility in the National Police. It was also resolved that those who have been arrested four times will be discharged immediately from the institution. But according to Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda, the main goal is to create professionals to combat the guerrillas. Here is what Minister Pardo said:

[Begin Pardo recording] There is an increase in the so-called police for the protection of power and mining installations and there is also an increase in the rural police to be able to cover 400 rural points. In general, the strengthening of the public force requires new sergeant majors and officers who can command these units. [end recording]

Above all, the government resolved through the decrees to earmark more funds for security. The payment of royalties and taxes was established for the exportation or exploitation of petroleum, gas, and other natural resources. The government resolved that those who sign contracts with the state for road construction will have to make a five-percent contribution of the contract's value to go to the security fund for the entire nation. This money will be for the reconstruction of garrisons, communications equipment, the organization and operation of intelligence networks, as well as for the payment of rewards, among others.

To conclude, it was resolved that the payments for insurance risks due to terrorist attacks on cargo and passenger vehicles will be charged to the general budget.

Lawyer Claims Political Status for ELN Rebel

PA1512003892 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Eduardo Umana Mendoza, one of rebel leader Francisco Galan's attorneys, assured that his client will not avail himself of the legal benefits to reduce his sentence. Rather, he will argue that his rights were violated at the time of his arrest and are being violated while he is in captivity. We have a report on the controversial case.

If guerrilla Gerardo Bermudez Sanchez, also known as Francisco Galan, does not negotiate a reduction in his sentence with the government, he could be handed a maximum 30-year sentence. Prosecutor's Office experts claim that, according to the Criminal Code, Francisco Galan has committed at least five common crimes, such as terrorism, association to commit crime, illegal weapons possession, and kidnapping with extortion. In addition, he is accused of at least 10 political crimes, such as rebellion, sedition, disturbances, conspiracy, illegal usurpation and retention of command, and disruptions of services.

Within two weeks the Prosecutor's Office will determine Gerardo Bermudez's legal situation. According to the rebel's attorney, Francisco Galan should only be tried as a political criminal. Here is what Eduardo Umana said:

[Begin Umana recording] To say the contrary is to deny outright the current Colombian Criminal Code. This leads to passing from a state of law to a de facto state, where political crime is not recognized. [end recording]

Umana Mendoza denied that, for the time being, Gerardo Bermudez has any intentions of negotiating a sentence reduction with the Prosecutor's Office. The ELN [Army of National Liberation] guerrilla's attorney will publicly make charges of human rights violations by the police and justice authorities against Galan. Meanwhile, the Prosecutor's Office said it would not disclose, for the time being, the site where Francisco Galan is being held to avoid criminal action by ELN rebels.

Names of Dead Medellin Cartel Members Revealed

PA1112201392 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] On 10 Decmeber, the identities of two Medellin Cartel members, whose bullet-riddled bodies were found in a car, were reported. The authorities had information on Paul Daniel Munoz Mosquera but do not have a file on his companion. Maribel Osorio has the following report:

[Begin recording] [Osorio] Although Paul Daniel Munoz Mosquera had been arrested for questioning in 1988, he remained anonymous even for authorities who were only

able to locate his position in the drug cartel with information provided by citizens after the death of his brother, Brances Munoz [also known as Tyson]. According to reports, Paul Daniel, together with this brothers, commanded the groups in charge of murdering policemen between 1989 and 1991.

[Freddy Paredes, Administrative Department of Security official in Medellin] Apparently, after Tyson's death, Paul Daniel Munoz Mosquera was given another group of paid murderers to attack National Police members.

[Osorio] There is no history on the second man, (Wilmar Alonso Arroyave Quintero). Apparently, he was Paul Daniel's bodyguard. Based on the way the murder was carried out, the authorities believe this was a classic execution between drug traffickers. [end recording]

Guerrillas Dynamite Two Oil Pipelines

PA1412172792 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 14 Dec (EFE)—Two oil pipelines in northeastern and northwestern Colombia were blown up with dynamite by guerrillas from the Marxist National Liberation Army, authorities reported on 14 December.

In the first sabotage against the Sebastopol oil pipeline, which carries fuel to the city of Medellin, the destruction of the pipe caused the spillage of 228,000 liters of gasoline, which had been pumped from the Barrancabermeja refinery in the center of the country.

In Norte de Santander Department, guerrillas attacked the main Colombian oil pipeline, the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline, near the village of Oru, according to the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise.

Yopal Car Bombing Kills Four, Injures Five

PA1512032892 Paris AFP in Spanish 0249 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Yopal, Colombia, 14 Dec (AFP)—The explosion of a car bomb in this city in eastern Colombia on the evening of 14 December resulted in four dead and five injured, the local police have reported.

Initial information provided by this source stated the dead were apparently three terrorists and one civilian.

Car Bomb Kills Three in Medellin 14 Dec

PA1512044292 Paris AFP in Spanish 0358 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 14 Dec (AFP)—Metropolitan police reported on the evening of 14 December that at least three persons were killed when a car bomb exploded in Medellin, in northwest Colombia.

An undetermined amount of explosives hidden in a Renault-4, exploded as a "Jeep" went by, which was moving in the eastern part of the city near the Olaya Herrera airport. The three occupants, whose identities are not known, were killed instantly. It was unofficially stated that an undetermined number of people were injured and were taken to nearby hospitals and clinics.

Up to now no guerrilla or criminal organization has claimed responsibility for the attack, supposedly carried out by criminals working for drug traffickers, who in the last few weeks have killed some 50 policemen by car bombs or by gunfire.

Local authorities do not rule out that this attack was targeted at a police vehicle that routinely patrols the area.

Ecuador

Defense Minister Discusses Armed Forces Role

PA1412170492 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Interview with Defense Minister General Jose Gallardo by unidentified reporter in the studio—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Thank you for being with us today, Minister Gallardo. We would like to know what will be your top priority during the four years of government that began a few months ago?

[Gallardo] Maintaining peace in the country and preventing crime and destructive terrorist acts. In other words, creating the conditions that will permit the country to develop and work in peace. In addition, carrying out actions in favor of the poor and neglected people, particularly peasant and Indian communities.

[Reporter] To what extent do the Armed Forces support austerity and the modernization of the state?

[Gallardo] The Armed Forces are austere by nature. We are always trying to save resources because the type of activity carried out requires austerity, sacrifice, and budget controls. I believe, however, that regardless of how austere the Armed Forces are, they can be even more austere.

[Reporter] Would you say then that the Armed Forces budget is not excessive?

[Gallardo] I do not think so; in fact, we always work within our budget. Compared to other countries with a similar economic situation, the Ecuadoran Armed Forces' budget is small.

[Reporter] What role will the Armed Forces play in the modernization of the state?

[Gallardo] We are totally in favor of the process for the modernization of the state. This includes many activities and can be resumed by being efficient. We are trying to be more efficient, and to use our material and human

resources the best way possible. Within this framework, we can mention enterprises in which the Armed Forces participate. The Army has 22 enterprises, of which only two are factories: the ammunition and uniform factories. In the other cases, the Army participates through the Army Industries Directorate, Dine, in various enterprises many of which are already privatized. The Army has shares in those companies representing, from a minimum percentage, less than 3 percent in some, to a higher percentage in others. The privatization process is underway.

[Reporter] Will the 1 percent tax to be consolidated by the government in the next few months in all state companies affect the profitability of military companies?

[Gallardo] We respect all Ecuadoran laws. We pay taxes. We have paid more than 3 billion [currency not specified] in taxes in companies in which the Dine participates, and, with the value-added tax, the total surpasses 10 billion. These companies also give jobs directly to approximately 10,000, and indirectly to many more. We will comply with all the regulations established by the government. We are an example to others in the country, because we pay all our taxes.

[Reporter] On another subject, what is the purpose of the presence at this time of soldiers from other countries in the Ecuadoran Amazon region?

[Gallardo] There are international agreements, including some at the UN and OAS level, to fight the serious scourge of drug trafficking, which is afflicting the world. In order to participate in those efforts, there is currently a small group of U.S. soldiers operating two helicopters that permit the detection of drug trafficking activities during any time of the day, in the darkness or foggy weather using sophisticated equipment. They have also installed radar, and during the past two years have provided small boats to control drug trafficking activities in rivers. They are currently providing maintenance for that type of equipment and participating in the operation of the helicopters and the radar.

[Reporter] How many Ecuadoran soldiers are involved in that operation?

[Gallardo] All Armed Forces members are involved in that operation.

[Reporter] Are there Shining Path members in Ecuador?

[Gallardo] I could not answer that question, because I cannot state whether an infiltration has occurred or not.

What I should say is that we are doing all we can to detect these extremist groups. We are ready to control and repress them, should these organized groups appear in our country.

Recently, some explosions have been registered in Quito and other parts of the country. These actions can be carried out by any person from a car.

[Reporter] Do you rule out the possibility that these attacks may be related to terrorist actions?

[Gallardo] They may be connected to terrorism.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, recently the Government of Colombia declared war against Colombian guerrillas and the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board. Within this framework, Ecuadoran and Colombian soldiers held joint maneuvers to prevent Colombian rebels from entering Ecuador. What are the specific results of such maneuvers?

[Gallardo] The specific and concrete results have been that no large groups of guerrillas have entered our country. I do not know if one, two, or five guerrillas have entered the country, aided by the long border with curving rivers and under cover of darkness. We are conducting intense searches, in case that has happened. But we are confident no large groups of rebels entered the country.

[Reporter] Returning to a very domestic issue, Mr. Minister, have the alleged implications that some personalities of (Ruminaui Bank) were involved in the Reyes case been ruled out?

[Gallardo] This matter is being handled by normal judicial procedure. What I would like to stress is that the Board of Directors of (Ruminaui Bank), which includes generals and admirals, requested the Bank Superintendency to intervene in the bank and submit all documents to it. To a great degree, we are responsible for fighting this scourge.

[Reporters] Have all the persons who were somehow involved in this bank and case been dismissed?

[Gallardo] According to the investigation that is being conducted, some arrests have been made. This is being handled by normal judicial procedures. We have not interfered with these actions.

[Reporter] When will the military dialogue with your Peruvian colleagues resume?

[Gallardo] That is not up to the Armed Forces to decide but up to the Foreign Relations Ministry and basically the government, as a whole. That is up to the president of the Republic to decide. Therefore, we limit ourselves to maintaining the best internal and external security conditions of the country.

[Reporter] Under the aforementioned conditions, do the border posts of (Pachacute) and Teniente Ortiz remain intact?

[Gallardo] Those posts remain where the public knows they are located.

[Reporter] Do you consider there is room for de facto administrations in Latin America?

[Gallardo] I think that there is no room for de facto administrations in Latin America. I think that the path of our countries is defined by democracy.

I would like to say to all Ecuadoreans, particularly those holding political office, that everyone should moderate his actions. This will permit us all to build a society where human rights are respected and citizens demand their rights and also assume their obligations.

[Reporter] According to that, the coup attempts in Venezuela are not justified.

[Gallardo] I would not like to discuss the political situation of another country out of respect for that country, particularly a sister nation like Venezuela.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, we thank you for your presence in HCJV Voz de los Andes and for giving your views on important national and international topics here in Ecuador.

[Gallardo] I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I am always willing to come here. I feel special affection for this radio station, which for so many years has served our country and the world.

[Reporter] Once again, we thank Defense Minister Jose Gallardo for being here this morning.

Paraguay

Judge Ends Suspension of Colorado Party Elections

PY1112221092 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 11 Dec 92 p 3

[Excerpt] Judge Oscar Rodriguez Kennedy decided this morning to lift a measure ordered almost a month ago, when the Colorado Party internal elections were suspended and an order was given to avoid introducing any innovations into electoral matters in that party.

Although by midday the Supreme Court had not yet submitted the petition for a court injunction to the judge—and for this reason, Rodriguez could not yet issue the respective order—the judge told ULTIMA HORA that he would lift both previous measures. [passage omitted]

Elections Scheduled for 27 Dec

PY1512003392 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] This information has just been received here at our press room. The Colorado Party permanent electoral board has just drawn up a record determining that the Colorado Party internal elections will be held next Sunday 27 December.

The timely drawing up of new voters' lists was also decided on, in order to exclude those voters who are registered in the current lists without identity document numbers. However, all those who present their identity documents will be able to participate in these elections.

Three Police Officers Sentenced to 25 Years

PY1312222992 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 12 Dec 92 p 6

[Text] Police Inspectors Lucilo Benitez and Camilo Almada Morel, and Deputy Inspector Juan Martinez have been sentenced by the ordinary courts. As a result, the Promotion Board will determine in its meetings the implementation of the articles of Law 877 of the Police Charter, and discharge them.

The three police officers were found guilty by the courts and sentenced to 25 years in jail for the death of Shaerer Prono [a victim of the Stroessner regime who was tortured to death by the police].

According to the Police Charter, an officer who is found guilty of a crime will be discharged in a common or special Promotion Board meeting. According to our sources, as Benitez, Almada, and Martinez have been recently sentenced, the Promotion Board will comply with the terms of the appropriate law.

Other officers and NCO's who are being tried and whose sentences will soon be reported will also be temporarily placed on the retirement lists. A member of the Asuncion Police Promotion Board has reported that it depends on the sentences handed down in their repective cases as to whether or not they will return to active service.

Peru

OAS Calls CCD Elections Step Toward Democracy

PA1512143292 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] The OAS foreign ministers have agreed by consensus to end their efforts in Peru once the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] is installed. At a special meeting called to evaluate the Peruvian situation, the foreign ministers concluded the latest events in Peru are an important first step in the reestablishment of democratic order in Peru.

The OAS foreign ministers resolved by consensus to close the ad-hoc meeting, which they convoked days after the 5 April constitutional change, thereby giving a vote of confidence to the existing process in Peru for a return to democracy.

The resolution, which was proposed by Argentina and supported by many delegations, was greeted with reservations by Venezuela, Panama, Nicaragua, and Canada. These countries finally joined the consensus.

The ad-hoc meeting will close on 30 December, when the CCD—elected on 22 November—will assume its functions. Upon adopting the resolution, the foreign ministers noted Peru is marching at a good pace toward the

reestablishment of its constitutional system. The principal points of the approved resolution follows:

—To ask the Peruvian Government to keep the OAS member countries informed through the Permanent Council of the evolution of the process of democratic reestablishment.

—To reaffirm the disposition of member states, within the framework of the OAS and in light of the evaluation of the Peruvian situation, to continue to lend its cooperation to the process of reaffirmation of democratic institutionality and total respect of human rights.

—To declare that, with the installation of the CCD, the ad-hoc meeting of foreign ministers is closed.

Peruvian Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente Raygada, who was at the meeting, said he was reaffirming before the Inter-American community Peru's invariable identification with the democratic values that inspire the OAS. He noted President Fujimori gave testimony of the commitment by the OAS to the Peruvian people during the OAS General Assembly sessions in Bahamas on 18 May.

Shining Path Defense 'Department' Dismantled

PY1412223592 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 2 Dec 92 p A11

[Text] Dincote [Counterterrorism Directorate] has dismantled the so-called 'Defense and Support Department' of the Shining Path's 'Popular Succor of Peru.' The group was made up of 16 terrorists, one of whom was in charge of the clandestine printing shop where the Shining Path newspaper EL DIARIO was issued.

Among the seized documents are charts and plans of future attacks and assassinations. The police also seized 'anfo' [ammonium nitrate fuel oil] explosives, in addition to safety fuses, a pistol, pamphlets, and ammunition.

The arrests of Juan Munarriz Ulloa (26), alias 'Gabriel'; Belia Dina Berrocal Tito (27), alias 'Tania'; Filomeno Arturo Encarnacion Nieto (30), alias 'Marcos'; and Carlos Delgado Altamirano (28), alias 'Oscar,' were reported during a news conference.

They were arrested on the day of the 'armed stoppage' imposed by Shining Path between 18 and 19 November.

Together with Martha Huatay Ruiz, alias 'Rosa,' leader of the 'Popular Succor of Peru,' they used to coordinate sabotage actions during their free time.

The same day, near the 'Leoncio Prado' school in Pamplona Alta, San Juan de Miraflores, Elf Jean Villanueva Polo (20), alias 'Ricardo,' was also detained. He was carrying two 'Russian cheese' [queso ruso] explosives when he was detained in a confrontation with the National Police, but he failed to use those explosives.

His accomplice, Santiago Vidal Leon Jimenez (32), alias 'Tomas,' died in that shootout.

The following were arrested on 19 November: Angel Guillermo Perez Bonett (29), alias 'Flaco'; Carlos Felipe Isla Litardo (29), alias 'Calin'; Oscar Rafael Huaroto Salvatierra (31), alias 'Marcos'; Jorge Luis Evangelista Calderon (39), alias 'Cheve Cheve'; and Pedro Valdez Bernales (41), alias 'Ciego.'

Documents were found on them proving their active participation within Shining Path.

Valdez Bernales 'Ciego' used to cooperate in the preparation of the clandestine newspaper EL DIARIO, as printing material and copies of the newspaper were found in his house at 465 Rufino Torrico Street, on the second floor.

The following day, Dincote agents raided the house located at the 'El Progreso' Cooperative, block 'K,' lot 29, Comas.

The following were arrested there: Ponciano Lopez Reyes (34), alias 'Sebastian,' and his wife Rosa Isabel Taboada Cuestas (29). The former was the 'military commander' of the so-called 'Popular Succor' Defense Department.

Those arrested are responsible for dynamite attacks on public and private properties, harrassment of police stations, and graffiti in schools.

Dincote intelligence actions were not limited to these arrests. At the house at 384 Gamarra Street, San Cayetano settlement, El Agostino, a center for meetings and Shining Path base, they seized dynamite, fuses, priming agents, ammunition, propaganda material, and Shining Path manuscripts.

On 22 November the Dincote agents arrested Andres Valdivia Cardenas (25), alias 'Tony,' and seized in addition explosives, medicine, propaganda material, and manuscripts he had hidden at 654 Antonio Alarco Street, La Victoria.

The most important arrest took place on 23 November. Antonio Canahuallpa Bustamante (26), alias 'Alfredo,' who is responsible for the group, and Percy Mendoza Mateo (20), alias 'Ruben,' were arrested when they were about to enter the house at 348 La Mar Street, El Agustino.

The following day Canahuallpa's wife Lourdes Ocampo Aguilar (20) was arrested. At her place at 482 Puno Street, Stand No. 7, in Lima, the police found leaflet printing machines, as well as plates to forge Lima Municipal seals and National Police badges.

During questioning they confessed, and provided the address of another Shining Path member located at 1842 Rio Branco Street, San Martin de Porres. There the police found 20 kg of 'anfo', propaganda material, and manuscripts.

This house used to be visited by Ponciano Lopez and Percy Mendoza to collect material for their attacks.

It was also confirmed that the detainees carried out attacks on factories, and on the installations of the Law, Sociology, Literature, and Engineering Schools of San Marcos University. They had also planned the assassination of a San Martin University professor.

Poll Results on Government, Subversives, Economy

PA1412154092 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] These are the results of a public opinion poll conducted among 500 persons by the Apoyo polling company in Lima between 4 and 6 December. There is a 30 percent margin of error. Here are the questions:

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the government? A total of 59 percent approve, 21 percent disapprove, and 20 percent had no opinion.

Approval in socioeconomic level A is 70 percent, while at the lowest level, Level D, there is 53-percent approval.

Disapproval among the political opposition is at 48 percent, and approval is at 29 percent. In the B and C Levels, the middle class, disapproval is at 52 percent.

President Fujimori received a 64-percent approval rating as opposed to a 23 percent disapproval rating. In socioeconomic level A, approval is at 73 percent. Approval is at 63 percent in Level D.

Approval of the ministers is another story. Foreign Relations Minister Oscar de la Puente received 28 percent approval and 29 percent disapproval. Economy Minister Carlos Bolona received 48 percent approval and 35 percent disapproval. The economic policy was approved of by 39 percent of respondents and disapproved of by 44 percent.

When asked what the economy minister should do, 51 percent replied that the minister should vary his economic policy, 20 percent responded that the current economic policy should be maintained, and 15 percent said Minister Bolona should resign. Regarding the nation's economic situation, 57 percent say the situation is bad, 38 percent say it is normal, and 3 percent say it is good. Of those same persons, 61 percent replied that their personal situation is normal, 34 percent said it was bad. Only 4 percent consider their personal situation to be good.

When asked if their personal situation for 1993 would be better, the same, or worse than in 1992, 45 percent said things would get better. A total of 75 percent of respondents in Level A said things would get better. Of respondents at all levels, 20 percent said things would be the same and 14 percent replied that things would get worse.

Asked what the national situation would be like in 1993, 42 percent said they expect a better year, among them 64 percent from Level A. Of respondents at all levels, 20 percent responded they expect a year similar to 1992, and 16 percent replied they expected a worse year.

When asked if the Democratic Constituent Congress will be better than the previous Congress, 61 percent said it will be better, 17 percent said it will be similar, and 7 percent said it would be inferior.

The optimism is not reserved only for the economy and politics. The subversive issue, previously the government's weak spot, received a 67-percent approval rating and a 21-percent disapproval rating. Approval is high at all socioeconomic levels, far exceeding an absolute majority. In Level A it has 84 percent approval; in Level B, 80 percent approval.

According to a large majority of respondents—57 percent—terrorism will be reduced. Nineteen percent said it would continue at the same level, and 13 percent said it will increase. At socioeconomic Level A, 68 percent replied that terrorism is on the retreat.

When asked if Shining Path will be defeated, 43 percent said yes; 68 percent in Level A and 35 percent in Level D.

Asked if Shining Path will give up the armed struggle, 28 percent said yes while 3 percent believe Shining Path will emerge victorious.

Asked if the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] would be defeated, 40 percent said yes, 59 percent in socioeconomic Level A and 32 percent in Level C.

Asked if MRTA will surrender the armed struggle, 29 percent said yes while 2 percent said the MRTA would emerge victorious.

Uruguay

Cabinet Changes Expected, Possible Candidates Noted

PY1412180992 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] The announcement of a series of changes in the Uruguayan cabinet is expected in the next few days after the setback suffered by the government in the referendum through which the people rejected the privatization of important state monopolies.

President Luis Alberto Lacalle reportedly stated last week that as of 17 December he will start announcing cabinet changes.

The first confirmed change is that Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell, who will be the new Uruguayan ambassador to France and will be replaced by Blanco Party Senator Sergio Abreu.

During the past few hours, it was disclosed that all the ministers had submitted their resignations to give Lacalle freedom to reorganize his cabinet.

In the meantime, official sources denied some of the names disclosed by the media but admitted that changes in addition to the one in the Foreign Ministry will take place.

Current Interior Minister Juan Andres Ramirez, in his capacity as legislator, will allegedly become President Lacalle's negotiator in Congress. Ramirez has announced that he will strive to obtain the majority support in Congress necessary to govern.

It should be pointed out that the name of National Party leader Walter Santoro is mentioned as the possible new defense minister.

Ramirez' return to Congress has prompted the media to speculate that current presidential spokesman Santoro will take over the Defense Ministry to replace Mariano Brito.

Lacalle, during new negotiations with the opposition, will offer a ministry to those opposition parties who supported him in his attempt to preserve the Privatization Law, and thus review the agreement to obtain majority support in Congress.

Lacalle Concedes Privatization Referendum Defeat

PY1412014692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0012 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Montevideo, 13 Dec (EFE)—Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle conceded on 13 December a political setback in the partial abrogation of the Privatizations Law, but promised that he would make every effort to go ahead with reforms and the modernization of the state.

In a radio and television message Lacalle congratulated his fellow citizens for today's civic event, and stated that he was proud of a society that with tolerance and respect had resolved its disagreements in a civilized way, through a popular vote.

The president indicated that the legal articles that had been challenged in the referendum are no longer law in the country, but stated that they pertain to a part of the reform of the state which he is promoting.

The privatization of the telephone company has come to a dead stop, and a new law must now be drafted, in agreement with the opposition, to implement the privatization.

"It is true that it is our belief that this matter will not end the reform of the state, as there has only been a partial abrogation, and we know that certain segments of public opinion want to change that structure. This will be part of our task during the rest of our tenure," Lacalle said.

He indicated that he will work to obtain a congressional majority, which he does not have, in order to continue, "as we have a lot of things to do in 1993."

"It is necessary to make a detailed evaluation of all the existing offers in order to obtain a future for the country," he said.

Venezuela

Perez Denies AD Requests Economic Change

PA1512152092 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez denied the Democratic Action [AD] Party has requested a change in the government's economic program. He made the denial after delivering his end of the year message to the troops based in Puerto Cabello.

[Begin Perez recording] I have not received any request nor would the AD party make such a request, because it would result in disaster. Perhaps it was a politician who mentioned such a thing. The political parties here, unfortunately, have lost a lot of their internal consolidation. That is why there are so many dissident voices on this topic. Although I am not engaged in party politics, I am an AD member and I believe the AD party has demonstrated its strength. Although it did not make specific gains in the elections, it won almost half of the mayoral posts in the country. It won eight state governorships and half of the council positions of the country. One cannot consider, therefore, that a party that achieves such victories is in a poor situation. This is democracy. There is defeat on the part of one party and victory on the part of another. In the last elections I won the presidency, but the party did not win in the Congress. We continue, however, to have a strong presence in Venezuela. [end recording]